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TODAY:
An Odd Macbeth, Page 10
STAGE

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Cheese serving as translator) explained the history of the music, the dozens of marathon four-hour concerts he performs annually and the book he was completing on classical Uighur music, the first of its kind.

"Music is one of the most important parts of Uighur culture," he said. "People here can wear American T-shirts, but their hearts stay the same. The music, because it's such a symbol of the heart, changes slowly."

Nonetheless, Heet has been changing the music, influenced by Persian, Arabic and Turkish music. Uighur songs are as jubilant as they are complex, soaring and dipping along the Arabic scale known as the *mawazin* and helping to give the Xinjiang region the nickname "the land of song and dance."

Generally thought to have been brought to the area in the ninth century, Uighur music wound up influencing Chinese court music when it became a favorite among Tang emperors.

One of the highlights of Heet's latest recording and first CD, "Inheritance," is a song called "Rooster," a story about a rooster awaking his people from darkness to welcome a new dawn.

"The government hasn't said anything to me about the political songs yet," he said. "so I don't know if I have a problem."

That night, Heet brought us to a local teahouse, where we sat in the back room, door shut to prevent the sound of the restaurant's one-man synthesizer band from leaking out.

After dinner, Heet found a chair in the restaurant. It was warped and out of tune. But when his fingers started sliding and twiddling with heavy-metal speed up and down the long neck, the instrument's defects seemed to disappear.

Waived rooster-voiced lyrics reverberated, the strings crackled brightly beneath his fingers, tempo melodies flowed out of the door. Heet went on for minutes, hours; it was hard to tell. For a moment, Kashgar was one, keeping time to a single clock, the dura-

Salaryman vs. the Yankee Invader

Once-Sure Jobs at Risk as Ailing Japanese Firms Sell to U.S. Ones

By Sandra Sugawara
Washington Post Service

TOKYO — The ominous warnings are everywhere — in Japanese magazines, best-selling books and popular television shows: The American boss is coming and your life will never be the same.

Consider Sara Stanton, Japan's fictional vision of an American boss — aggressive, impersonal and obsessed with profits. "Performance is everything," Ms. Stanton declares in a prime-time television melodrama. The plot: a U.S. company acquires a Japanese bank. Despite years of loyal service, the Japanese employees receive an ultimatum from Ms. Stanton: Bring in new business or risk being fired.

Real American bosses presumably would deliver the message with more finesse. Nevertheless, as ailing Japanese financial companies sell out to American ones and corporate pillars such as Nissan Motors Co. seek foreign investors, these messages are seeping into the once-insulated Japanese workplace.

The defining theme of the Japanese economic system — protecting jobs — is being undercut by global economic forces. Overnight, Japanese employees have been catapulted from a secure world of lifetime jobs and guaranteed raises to

a potentially scary, yet for some workers exhilarating, world of mega-bonuses, faster advancements and abrupt firings.

Japanese companies, financially drained after years of sacrificing profits to protect employees, are experimenting with similar changes. But Japanese bosses, conditioned for years to think of employees as family and friends, are trying to phase in employment changes gradually. In contrast, American firms swooping in to take over distressed firms often have no such patience or inclination.

See JAPAN, Page 4



Photo: RYUSEI/The Associated Press
Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder before a party meeting Tuesday.

Final Debate On Clinton To Be Held In Secret

By Brian Knowlton
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton entered its final phase on Tuesday as senators voted to hold their final deliberations in secret, but with little doubt now that they will vote later this week to acquit him.

A motion to hold the debate before television cameras and the public failed by a vote of 59 to 41, eight votes short of the two-thirds required. All but one of the 45 Democrats voted for open debate. Republicans opposed it by 41 to 14.

There was little expectation that many minds would be changed by the senators' comments behind closed doors, which come at the close of a grueling five-week trial in which the central arguments of each side have been heard, rehearsed and heard again.

The majority leader, Senator Trent Lott, Republican of Mississippi, said:



Former Prime Minister Laurent Fabius arriving at the special trial Tuesday in Paris. Photo: AP Wirephoto/The Associated Press

3 Ex-Ministers Go on Trial in Paris

Court Hears Manslaughter Charges Over AIDS-Tainted Transfusions

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

PARIS — France put three former government ministers on trial Tuesday on charges of manslaughter and criminal negligence in a blood-transfusion scandal, a proceeding as politically charged as President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial in the United States.

Former Prime Minister Laurent Fabius and two health ministers who served under him between 1984 and 1986 denied the charges when they appeared Tuesday before a specially constituted tribunal, the Court of Justice of the Republic, the first since World War II to try ministers for crimes allegedly committed in office.

There appears to be virtually no chance the 67 votes required for conviction will be obtained on the perjury or obstruction of justice counts facing Mr. Clinton. The precise contours of opinion in the chamber, however, will remain unclear until the final votes on Thursday or Friday.

Senators continued, meanwhile, to search for an alternative to removing Mr. Clinton from office, working on the language of a censure or rebuke that might win bipartisan support after the trial ends.

Several Democrats and a handful of Republicans had lobbied for the deliberations to take place before the public eye.

"I want Congresses in the future who have to deal with this," said Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Republican of Texas, "to have the precedent for how we came to this decision."

But some other Republicans have said that they fear Democrats would use open debate to launch political attacks on the House prosecutors and the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr.

Mr. Clinton returned to Washington early Tuesday after attending the funeral of King Hussein in Amman.

Some in Washington were already beginning to look beyond the trial. Even the 13 prosecutors, their work over, were turning back to House business.

Representative Dennis Hastert of

slaughter, and "involuntarily attacking the physical integrity of others" in the cases of seven people who contracted AIDS after receiving blood containing the virus from government stocks in the mid-1980s. About 4,400 people were infected with the virus in the scandal, and about 40 percent have since died.

Mr. Fabius and the two other former ministers contested all the charges Tuesday, including the accusation that they delayed testing of blood for the AIDS virus in order to give a French-designed test a chance to compete commercially with an American-made one that was available months earlier.

"I hope this necessary trial will allow us to establish that from what we knew, we acted in good conscience," Mr. Fabius said in a statement to the court, which has no permanent build-

ing and sat for the first time Tuesday in a state-run conference center near the Arc de Triomphe.

Georgina Dufoix, who was minister of social affairs, and Edmond Hervé, secretary of state for health in Mr. Fabius' government, also made statements disputing charges that they had delayed action for commercial reasons.

Mrs. Dufoix and Mr. Hervé are charged with letting unsterilized blood and blood products remain in stocks used to treat hemophiliacs for several months in 1985 even though they allegedly knew that the untreated products could be infected with the virus. The two will also answer to charges of negligence in enforcing health regulations on screening donors

See FRANCE, Page 5

Beijing Pulls Back in Hong Kong Rift

By Philip Segal
International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — China sought Tuesday to cool down what has threatened to become Hong Kong's first constitutional crisis since the territory was returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

The new dispute represented the second time in a month that the integrity of Hong Kong's legal system has come under question.

In what appeared to be an unprecedented challenge to Hong Kong's legal and judicial independence, a Chinese cabinet official in Beijing spoke out Monday to denounce a Hong Kong

court ruling last month on immigration from the mainland, labeling it a mistake that violated the Basic Law, the former British territory's postcolonial constitution.

The comment set off a storm of protests in Hong Kong and warnings by investors that China should not tamper with the rule of law here.

On Tuesday, the Foreign Ministry in Beijing sought to repair the damage.

"The central government has unwaveringly implemented the 'one country, two systems' policy in Hong Kong," a ministry spokeswoman, Zhang Qiyue, stressed at a news briefing. "On this issue, there is no change at all."

Immediately at issue is the independence of this former British colony's Common Law system, which is supposed to operate independently of China in most areas except for defense and foreign affairs.

From the time China resumed sovereignty over Hong Kong, most people here, including politicians most wary of Beijing, generally agreed that China had kept its promise to stay out of Hong Kong's internal affairs.

But with Beijing's declaration that a landmark ruling by Hong Kong's highest court "should be changed," one

of the time

jobs quota marginally lower to 10.6 percent from 10.7 percent.

See HONG KONG, Page 4

Jobless Toll Adds To Stress in Bonn

Schroeder Also Is Facing Demands by Militant Union

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — Germany's slowing economy has pushed unemployment back up to 11.5 percent, officials reported Tuesday, putting renewed pressure on the government of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder just days after an electoral defeat reduced its room to

maneuver.

Europe's biggest economy faced another potential setback as the militant IG Metall union edged closer to an industrial strike. Germany's biggest union late Tuesday said that contract talks had collapsed, opening the way for a strike ballot of its 2.7 million members as soon as next week.

The prospect of either a strike or an expensive wage settlement could deal another blow to Mr. Schroeder by impeding his roundtable consensus talks with unions and industry, meant to find a common front to fight unemployment.

The union, which counts autoworkers among its members, canceled all remaining bargaining dates and said its leaders formally planned Thursday to declare the talks a failure. Keeping up pressure on industry, 82,000 workers laid down tools Tuesday and staged protests at nearly 300 plants across Germany.

The Federal Labor Office reported that the number of unemployed people jumped to 4.45 million in January, the third consecutive monthly increase, from 4.197 million in December. That pushed January's jobless rate up to 11.5 percent from 10.9 percent in December, the agency said. The jobless toll rose to 18.9 percent in Eastern Germany, and to 9.7 percent in the West.

With little more than 100 days in office, Chancellor Schroeder's coalition government of Social Democrats and Greens saw its authority undermined this week by a surprise defeat for its political allies in an election in the state of Hesse. That loss will not only remove Hesse's leftist coalition from the statehouse but from the Bundesrat as well, shifting the majority in the upper house to the opposition conservatives.

The Bundesrat, which represents Germany's 16 states, can now block legislation, potentially creating political gridlock, with clashing ideologies in each chamber.

After Mr. Schroeder won the September election on a pledge to fight unemployment, January's precipitous rise in unemployment refocused attention on Bonn's most urgent domestic issue.

"The directionless politics of Schroeder's government has left deep imprints on the jobs market, too, after 100 days," said Hermann Kues, deputy opposition leader for the Christian Democrats in the Bundestag, the lower chamber.

In the wake of the latest jobs figures, "there is now enormous pressure on this government," said Thomas Mayer, senior economist in Frankfurt for Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Although unemployment always rises in winter for seasonal reasons, the president of the Federal Labor Office, Bernhard Jagoda, said that sluggish economic conditions contributed to January's figures. Mr. Jagoda said he "could not rule out that the current weak phase in the economy will have an effect on the jobs market."

The alarming jump in unemployment obscured some small signs of optimism. After statistical adjustments to strip out seasonal trends, unemployment fell by a deeper than expected 59,000 compared to December to a seasonally adjusted 4.092 million. That pushed the adjusted jobless quota marginally lower to 10.6 percent from 10.7 percent.

See GERMANY, Page 6

The Dollar		
New York	Tuesday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
Euro	1.1306	1.1322
Pound	1.6375	1.6399
Yen	114.125	114.545
DM	1.7301	1.7273
FF	5.8024	5.7932

Dollars per pound and per euro:

The Dow		
Tuesday close	percent change	
-158.08	9.13.03	-1.70%
S & P 500		

— 27.63 1,216.14 -2.22%
— 94.12 2,310.80 -3.91%

AGENDA

Salt Lake Blames 2 Olympic Aides

The top two officials of Salt Lake City's Olympic bid were condemned Tuesday by an internal ethics investigation into the biggest corruption scandal in the history of the games.

The report, more than 300 pages long, primarily targeted Tom Welch, who directed Salt Lake's successful bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics, and Dave Johnson, his top lieutenant, accusing them of hidden payments and deceptive practices.

Both men, who are no longer with the Salt Lake City committee, have denied wrongdoing. Page 18.

'Shakespeare' Tops Oscar Nominations

"Shakespeare in Love," a romantic comedy, shared 13 Oscar nominations Tuesday, gearing up to do battle for Hollywood's best picture of 1998 with the World War II epic "Saving Private Ryan" with 11 nominations. "Life Is Beautiful," "Elizabeth" and "The Thin Red Line." "Life Is Beautiful" also was nominated as best foreign language film.

The Oscars will be awarded in Los Angeles on March 21. Page 20.

U.S. Warns Serbs On Peacekeepers

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Yugoslavia would be making a "big mistake" if it refused to allow foreign peacekeepers into Kosovo and could trigger NATO air strikes as a result, the United States said on Tuesday.

A State Department aide spoke after Serbs had said they would not allow foreign peacekeeping troops into Kosovo under any terms, and won strong backing from Greece, a NATO member and also a neighbor in the troubled Balkans. Page 5.

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From Prison Cells, an Alliance for a New Era

Malaysia Politicians Bond In Their Zeal for Reform

By Thomas Fuller
International Herald Tribune

KUALA LUMPUR — When they both had their liberty, when they had power and meteoric careers, rarely were their names mentioned in

Soothing Nerves / A Bug in Human Thinking**Y2K Overreactions Feared**By Barnaby J. Feder
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — The early fears about the Year 2000 computer problem featured all sorts of machines driven haywire by their inability to read dates in the new year. These included computer networks that control power, water and phone systems that might freeze; railroads, airlines and trucks that might be idled as dispatch and traffic safety systems crash; and the financial universe, from stock markets to payroll systems to automated teller machines, that might go on the blink.

That was before tens of billions of dollars were spent on computer repairs and upgrades. Now, a chorus of regulators, Year 2000 project managers and other authorities warn that people fearing the worst may end up inflicting more serious damage on themselves, their neighbors and the economy than anything the computers do.

Planning experts say those scenarios could include bank runs, hoarding of food and gasoline, fires caused by misuse of wood stoves and generators, and a rise in gun violence stemming from the surge in firearm sales.

"As it becomes clear our national infrastructure will hold, overreaction becomes one of the biggest remaining problems," said John Koskinen, chairman of the President's Commission on Year 2000 Conversion. The challenge is to keep the computer repair work going and prudent preparations for disruptions on track while calming the most nervous citizens.

While surveys show most Americans do not expect their lives to be severely disrupted, a significant minority say they are planning big investments of time or money to protect themselves. And the American Red Cross advises the public, as a precaution, to have enough food and other staples at hand to endure disruptions of several days to a week.

At a meeting in Los Angeles on Monday, the Year 2000 project committee of the National Retail Federation endorsed the Red Cross recommendation. The committee called for retailers and manufacturers to develop campaigns aimed at getting consumers to stock up gradually rather than trying to do so in the last few days of 1999. But the group declined to provide any examples of the kind of supplies it thought citizens should stock, fearing that being so specific would be too alarming.

"Nobody wins if the public freaks out," said Cathy Hotka, the information technology specialist at the federation. The Washington-based trade group includes virtually every major retailing company and trade association. "If the public reacts

badly, you could take a potentially minor situation and make it a nightmare."

Some sectors, like the banking industry, began addressing public fears months ago. The Federal Reserve, which supplies cash to the banking system, took the lead by announcing its intention to print \$50 billion in extra currency to assure consumers that banks will have plenty of paper cash.

Individual banks and industry associations have sponsored a wide variety of advertising suggesting that shifting money to the mattress leaves customers more open to theft, fires and scam artists.

Some symbolic gestures have already been announced as well. Jane Garvey, head of the Federal Aviation Administration, has promised to be flying on New Year's Eve as a show of faith in the air traffic control system. British Airways announced that nearly all of its senior executives would also be aloft.

The growing questions about behavior management highlight a paradox that computer programmers were among the first to realize: the Year 2000 computer problem, also known as the Millennium Bug and Y2K, probably should have been called something like the Pogo Syndrome after the old comic strip that observed, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

After all, humans solved the Year 2000 problem into the technology landscape by using just two digits in programming dates, such as 99 for 1999, to save expensive memory in the 1960s and 1970s. Warnings that some machines and software would malfunction because they would read 00 as 1900 instead of 2000 were disregarded until fairly recently.

Now, as the race to minimize the risk enters its last months, the Year 2000 glitch may test people's trust in one another as much as the reliability of their machines. Do they believe that the repair work has been sound and will be completed in time? Will citizens be neighborly, rather than selfish?

A tiny minority is already investing heavily in the belief that the answer to these questions is mostly no. Year 2000 alarmists, religious groups that see the computer problem as a preordained divine punishment and survivalists fleeing for rural fortresses are producing measurable bounces in the sale of dehydrated foods, wood-burning stoves and home power generators.

More telling though is the number of Americans saying they are considering moves that would clearly be unnecessary if the nation's computer networks end up being as reliable as regulators and industry leaders are projecting. Polls show that around 10 percent of citizens expect to withdraw most or all of their money from banks. A Gallup poll

Iris Murdoch, Inventive Novelist, DiesBy Richard Nicholls
New York Times Service

IRIS MURDOCH, 79, a prodigiously inventive and idiosyncratic British writer whose 26 novels offered lively plots, complex characters and intellectual speculation, died Monday at a nursing home in Oxford, England.

Her struggle with Alzheimer's disease was documented recently in "Elegy for Iris," a memoir by her husband of 42 years, the critic and novelist John Bayley, who was at her bedside when she died.

Miss Murdoch's first novel was published in 1954. Her fiction received many honors, including the Booker Prize for "The Sea, the Sea," the Whitbread Literary Award for Fiction for "The Sacred and Profane Love Machine" and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for "The Black Prince."

Although she was made a Dame of the

British Empire, she rarely won the attention given to gaudier contemporaries. She spent much of her career quietly teaching and writing, away from lecture tours, prize committees and television appearances.

Along with novels, she produced a half-dozen works on philosophy, several plays, poetry and critical writing on literature and modern ideas.

Miss Murdoch had a background in philosophy — she knew and wrote about Jean-Paul Sartre, studied with Ludwig Wittgenstein and was a lecturer in philosophy at Oxford University — and her fiction grappled with such questions as the nature of good and evil.

This led many who knew her work superficially to assume that her novels were philosophical explorations of the origins of morality and behavior and too esoteric or intellectually rigorous for a general audience. In fact, many of Miss Murdoch's novels are exuberantly me-

lodramatic, offering bemused records of romantic or erotic follies as well as more somber battles between individuals representing moral good and its opposite.

Far from viewing fiction as another and lesser way of dealing with philosophical questions, Miss Murdoch argued that literature was meant "to be grasped by enjoyment" and that the art of the tale was "a fundamental form of thought" in its own right.

The ideal reader, she told one interviewer, was "someone who likes a jolly good yarn and enjoys thinking about the book as well about the moral issues."

Her belief in literature had its inception in her happy and book-filled childhood. Jean Iris Murdoch was born in Dublin on July 15, 1919, the only child of Anglo-Irish parents. When she was a year old her family moved to London, where her father, Willis John Hughes Murdoch, joined the civil service. In interviews, she remembered that as a child she had existed "in a perfect trinity of love." In 1995, she told an interviewer that she was experiencing severe writer's block, saying that the struggle to write had left her in "a hard, dark place." In 1996 Mr. Bayley announced that she had Alzheimer's disease. If "Elegy for Iris" offers a moving evocation of a great love story, it also provides a grim record of watching the personality of a loved one gradually dwindle under the burden of fear, bafflement and grief.

She was, Miss Murdoch confided to one of her friends, "sailing into the darkness." Mr. Bayley's descriptions of his struggle to understand his wife's suffering, to find ways to ameliorate it and to come to grips with the physical demands of his new responsibilities and

understand the conflicting emotions aroused in him by the experience are exact, penetrating and unsparing. Miss Murdoch became like "a very nice 3-year-old," her husband said, and she needed to be fed, bathed and changed.

The note on which the book concludes, however, is one of reconciliation and a painfully won serenity.

"Every day," Mr. Bayley wrote of their lives together in Iris Murdoch's last years, "we are physically closer. She is not sailing into the dark: The voyage is over, and under the dark escort of Alzheimer's, she has arrived somewhere. So have I."

The novelist Iris Murdoch sitting at home in England a few months ago. Jonathon Player/The New York Times

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Blame Game Heats Up In Ethiopia and EritreaBy Karl Vick
Washington Post Service

NAIROBI — In picking up the gun, Ethiopia and Eritrea have not exactly set aside the word. Even as their considerable armies shell, bomb and strafe each other across kilometers of trench lines, the battle to define the frontier between the neighbors in the Horn of Africa is running parallel with a pitched struggle to define who the aggressor is.

In a war being fought in remote, semi-arid hills, the most visible front is the public-relations front.

On Monday, both sides agreed on

where the real blood flowed: on the same

portion of disputed border where war erupted last May and reignited Saturday morning after an eight-month cease-fire, and on a second front near the small

Eritrean town of Tsonora, gateway to a

strategically important larger town halfway to Asmara, the Eritrean capital.

[On Tuesday, Eritrea claimed the upper hand in the war, but Ethiopian units continued to pound enemy positions and killed five civilians in a predawn bombing raid on an Eritrean village near the disputed border. Reuters reported from Lalibela Deda, Eritrea.]

[Eritrea said it beat back a major Ethiopian offensive along the border Monday, killing at least 1,500 soldiers and wounding 3,000 near Tsonora. "They are sustaining heavy damage, and they are not gaining any ground," a government official said.

[But Ethiopia said it captured two Eritrean strongholds on the Tsonora front

during Monday's intense clashes and then held off Eritrean counterattacks. "Eritrean attempts to recapture these key military positions only resulted in further loss and defeat for their side," the government said. There was no independent confirmation of either claim.]

The enemies also agreed that Ethiopia had supported its troops with warplanes and shelled a town called Adi-Quala. Eritrea claimed to have destroyed a radar station there.

But in the statements issued by each nation, the day's events were secondary to the question that has preoccupied both governments since long before the first shot was fired: Who fired the first shot?

The Eritrean Foreign Ministry said Monday, after claiming for the past two days that the current large-scale attacks were initiated by Eritrea, the Ethiopian government has now been forced to admit

— by the weight of incontrovertible evidence — that it is the party which has unleashed the offensive.

Meanwhile, Ethiopia's official spokeswoman repeated her government's line blaming Eritrea for the "full-scale attack" that started it all.

The world may never know who is right. Satellite photos betray only troop movements, not the opposing fire that might have provoked them. Intercepts of military radio transmissions surely could tell the story, but such intelligence, even if gathered by U.S. eavesdropping apparatus, rarely becomes public in African wars, especially those that involve a U.S. ally. And the Ethiopia-Eritrea conflict involves not one ally, but two.

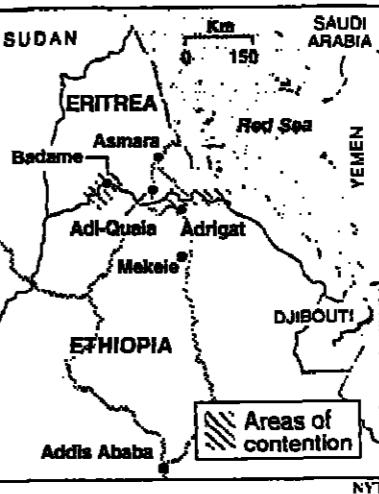
"We're trying to stand down the middle," an Africa specialist in Washington said. "There are no bad guys. They're all friends of ours who have temporarily taken leave of their senses."

Each country clearly craves the moral high ground. Analysts agree that both sides are so preoccupied with the question of who fired first because almost nothing else about the conflict is clear.

The border dispute at the nominal heart of the fight is a knot of counterclaims supported by competing colonial maps. And the dynamic between the formerly friendly nations — part of the same country until Eritrea became independent nearly six years ago — is as nuanced, personal and bitter as any family feud.

Yet both sides appeared truly shocked when the crisis erupted in May. After a violent but tiny skirmish, President Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea sent tanks to occupy land that had been more gently claimed by each country for years. Since then, the lines on each side have hardened — diplomatically, with the failure of peace attempts by the United States, the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, as well as militarily.

The high ground changed hands fre-



quently when fighting broke out in May. Ethiopian officials stewed when their air strikes on the Eritrean capital dominated the first television images of the conflict.

Days later, Eritrean officials wincing at coverage of their own planes bombing civilians at Mekele in northern Ethiopia, a strike that hit a primary school.

In the truce that followed, Ethiopia courted sympathy by printing full-color posters of the carnage and distributing equally graphic booklets, but it expressed impatience with international criticism of its policy of forcibly expelling Eritrean citizens by the tens of thousands.

Eritrea, meanwhile, was widely viewed as stalling, repeatedly asking for "clarification" of the OAU peace plan that Ethiopia accepted early on. In the past year, Ethiopia announced its impatience in terms that grew steadily stronger, so that when fighting broke out it was widely assumed to have been launched from the Ethiopian side.

Avalanches Hit French Chalets In Wide Storm

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — Avalanches buried 11 chalets on Tuesday just north of the ski resort of Chamonix in the French Alps, killing two people, the police reported, and five others were listed as missing.

About 200 rescue workers, some using sensors and others with dogs, were searching for any victims trapped in wooden chalets or under the snow in the villages of Le Tour and Montroc-Le-Planet.

Train services were canceled between Chamonix and St. Gervais because of fear of avalanches. Several highways were also closed and people were advised to remain indoors.

It was part of a cold snap and heavy snowfalls throughout much of Europe, disrupting air, rail and road traffic in Switzerland and causing a death in Scotland, the police and weather services said.

Yvonne Davidson, 34, died when she slipped and fell on an icy sidewalk in Broxburn, near Edinburgh, the police said. It was unclear whether she died instantly or lost consciousness and froze to death.

Heavy snow in Switzerland nearly paralyzed the country's main airport at Zurich-Kloten, where only four aircraft were able to take off.

The Swiss-French airport at Basel-Mulhouse suspended up to two-thirds of flights scheduled for Tuesday.

Employees calling work to say they would be late saturated cell-phone networks, the national operator Swisscom said.

Between 80 and 100 centimeters (32 and 40 inches) of snow fell in the Swiss mountains, increasing the risk of avalanches.

In the canton of Valais, alpine snow came crashing down in three avalanches. One buried six chalets in La Fouly, but the police said they believed the houses were empty. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Swiss and French trains reported many late arrivals. A train derailed in Frasne, eastern France; there were no reports of injuries.

The high ground changed hands fre-

WEATHER

Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by AccuWeather.



Legend: Cold Unseasonably Cold Unseasonably Warm Warm Heavy Rain

North America

Very mild from Atlanta to New York. Thursday: Showers. Friday: More snow will cross the region.

Europe

Windy and colder in Beijing Thursday and Friday; not as cold this weekend.

Asia

Wet and cold in Tokyo Thursday and Friday; not as cold this weekend.

Africa

Very wet and cold in Cape Town, Johannesburg, and Durban.

Latin America

Wet and cold in Bogota, Caracas, and Lima.

Oceania

Wet and cold in Sydney and Melbourne.

North America

Wet and cold in Seattle, Portland, and San Francisco.

Europe

Wet and cold in Paris, Berlin, and Moscow.

Middle East

Wet and cold in Ankara, Istanbul, and Tel Aviv.

Africa

Wet and cold in Cairo, Khartoum, and Addis Ababa.

Latin America

Wet and cold in Bogota, Caracas, and Lima.

Oceania

Wet and cold in Sydney, Melbourne, and Wellington.

North America

Keep Politics Out of It, Judge Orders Anwar

By Mark Landler
New York Times Service

KUALA LUMPUR — For a few brief moments in a courtroom here Tuesday, Anwar Ibrahim provided a rare glimpse into the debates that raged in the Malaysian capital last year as the Asian financial crisis devastated the country's currency and throttled its economy.

Testifying for the second day in his sex and corruption trial, Mr. Anwar, the former deputy prime minister, said that he and his boss, Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad, had major differences about how to respond to the "financial convulsion engulfing the region."

Mr. Anwar said that during this period of escalating tension, the police had initiated an aggressive investigation into his personal life.

But before Mr. Anwar could elaborate, the judge cut him off, declaring that Mr. Anwar could not cite evidence of a political conspiracy to defend himself from charges that he had abused his authority. The ruling by Judge Augustine Paul knocks out a central plank of Mr. Anwar's defense and leaves his legal prospects looking bleak.

Mr. Anwar, who was ousted and imprisoned in September, contends that the corruption and sex-related charges against him were trumped up by his political enemies following bitter policy disputes with Mr. Mahathir.

"A political conspiracy, if any, against the accused is not relevant," said the judge, rejecting an impassioned plea by Mr. Anwar's lead lawyer.

Political analysts and lawyers here said the ruling was a potentially grievous setback because the trial is as much a political battle as a criminal case. If Mr. Anwar is not allowed to discuss the conduct of Mr. Mahathir and other Malaysian officials, they said, he will have to defend himself against narrow charges that he sought to quash a police investigation.

"They would have preferred to have

the conspiracy included because Anwar would have had a lot to say," said C.V. Prabhakaran, a lawyer who sat in on the hearing as a representative of one of the defense witnesses. Asked whether Mr. Anwar's lawyers could marshal an effective defense in light of the ruling, he said, "Looks like no more."

Mr. Anwar's lawyers insisted that their client still had a case. They said they would use other avenues to publicize the information that Mr. Anwar was prepared to discuss on the witness stand.

"If we can't show it to the court, we'll show it to the people," said Gurbachan Singh, one of Mr. Anwar's attorneys.

But in this country of tightly controlled news media, getting Mr. Anwar's message out is not easy. While local newspapers carry ample coverage of the trial, they tend to dwell on the lurid nature of the charges against him.

Indeed, the prosecution has been able to wage a powerful campaign in the court of public opinion. The charges against Mr. Anwar originally linked his purported cover-up attempts with his alleged sexual misconduct. For weeks, the prosecution ostentatiously displayed in the courtroom a mattress that they said contained semen stains from Mr. Anwar.

After the prosecution wrapped up its case two weeks ago, the judge amended the charges to drop the alleged sexual misconduct. As a result, the government now has only to prove that Mr. Anwar meddled in the police investigation. It also means Mr. Anwar's lawyers cannot challenge the sex charges.

The sex case against Mr. Anwar seemed to be weakening in any event. On Tuesday, one of the five men allegedly sodomized by Mr. Anwar retracted his statement. The man, Mior Abdul Razak, said he had been "forced and threatened by the police after his arrest" to make false statements. Two of the other five men also retracted claims that they were sodomized by Mr. Anwar, while a third has given conflicting testimony.



Octavio Soares, an East Timorese student activist, center, arguing with a bystander during an anti-independence demonstration Tuesday.

Student-Police Scuffle in Jakarta

The Associated Press

JAKARTA — Anti-riot officers detained at least 40 student protesters Tuesday who had tried to march to Parliament to demand a trial of former President Suharto. Police and soldiers scuffled with some students as they carried them to two trucks, but there were no injuries. Authorities said they planned to release them after questioning.

About 100 protesters had gathered before security forces broke up the demonstration, saying organizers had no permit to protest. The activists chanted anti-Suharto slogans and said they wanted an investigation of the military's killing of at least nine campus activists during protests for political reform in November.

■ Rebel Leader to Leave Jail

A prison official announced Tuesday that the jailed East Timorese rebel leader, Xanana Gusmao, will be moved to house arrest. Reuters reported.

Indonesian officials have said that Mr. Gusmao would be allowed to participate in finding a solution for the territory of East Timor, which Indonesia invaded in 1975 and annexed the following year, a move not recognized by the United Nations.

The move is seen as a response to mounting international pressure to release him from prison to smooth efforts to end the dispute over East Timor's future.

Taiwan Hands Over 5 Hijackers of Chinese Airliners to Beijing

Reuters

TAIPEI — Taiwan handed over five paroled Chinese hijackers to the Communist mainland Tuesday in a goodwill gesture seen as easing bilateral tensions ahead of a high-level meeting in Taiwan.

Taipei had planned to repatriate nine of the air pirates who have hijacked mainland airliners to the Nationalist-ruled island in the 1990s but held four back after one attacked a Taiwan official while en route back to China.

The nine were flown to Taiwan's fortified island of Jinmen, where five were put on a Chinese Red Cross boat for the short passage to Xiamen, three kilometers (two miles) away.

Taipei described the move in humanitarian terms

as enabling the hijackers to be home for the Feb. 16 Chinese Lunar New Year, even though they would be in custody. None of the nine had served their full prison terms, but all had become eligible for parole.

Plans to return them were seen as a gesture to improve the climate for a visit by a senior mainland envoy to Taiwan, which may take place in April. The visit by Wang Daohan, Beijing's top Taiwan envoy, would reciprocate for a trip to Beijing in October by Koo Chen-fu, a Taiwan official.

In Beijing, Zhang Qiyue, a government spokesman, sidestepped questions about how the hijackers would be treated on their return and called anew for Taipei to hand over five mainland air pirates still imprisoned in Taiwan.

Sixteen mainlanders hijacked 13 airliners to Taiwan from 1993 to 1998, 12 of them in a 1993-94 spate that led to a sweeping overhaul of China's airport security.

Still in Taiwan's custody is Yuan Bin, a pilot who embarrassed Beijing by commandingeer his Air China jet with 104 passengers to the island in 1998 to highlight what he said were poor working conditions at the state carrier.

On Saturday, Taipei repatriated two children who had been brought along when their parents hijacked planes.

Because Beijing does not recognize Taiwan's criminal verdicts, the returnees face retrial on the mainland and the probability of even longer prison terms.

LETTERS: Unlikely Correspondents

Continued from Page 1

To be sure, there is more than a good dose of political grandstanding in their letters. But there is also perhaps something more simple: kinship, exchanging letters with someone in the same predicament.

While the age of the Internet and fax machines has humbled the notion of the ordinary letter, in the seclusion of a prison cell, inmates are as pleased to get mail as a homesick child in summer camp.

"They mean very much, very very much," said Syed Husin Ali, a political prisoner for six years in the 1970s, referring to letters from prison. "Every time the warden comes around with mail he will be shouting from a distance, 'Surat! Surat! Surat!' Letters! Letters! Letters!" And everyone will rush to the front of the cell, each waiting eagerly to receive one."

Both men discuss their court cases and the reasons for their incarceration.

Mr. Anwar, 51, was dismissed by Prime Minister Mahathir last September and was charged with sodomy and corruption. He has been denied bail.

Mr. Lim, 39, is serving an 18-month term for publishing and distributing a pamphlet that criticized the government. He started his sentence last August.

Taken together, the ordeals of the two men have changed the way Malaysians view their government. Mr. Anwar's arrest led to street protests and a general unease among the often well-traveled, well-educated Malaysian middle class.

"In some ways," Mr. Anwar wrote Mr. Lim, "our incarceration has helped open the eyes of Malaysians to the injustices in our system, and thereby to rouse them from their complacency and encourage them to participate more meaningfully in the political process."

Mr. Lim went to prison after a judge refused to overturn his conviction for printing and distributing a political pamphlet that a lower court had ruled seditious. The pamphlet criticized the government's decision not to press statutory-rape charges against a former senior government official.

The pamphlet questioned why a schoolgirl involved in the scandal — she was 15 at the time — had been detained in the case but not the official, who was then regarded as a protégé of the prime minister's.

After hearing the final ruling, Mr. Lim stood stone-faced in the dock, surrounded by weeping women: his wife, his mother and other family members. He gave his wife everything he would not need in prison — car keys, wallet and suit coat. He placed his national identity card in his shirt breast pocket and turned to face a group of reporters crammed against the wooden railing of the dock.

"I will hold up the handcuffs that will be placed upon me not as a symbol of shame but as a symbol of pride and honor," he said in a quivering voice. "My political career may have been

terminated, but my political struggle will go on." The sentence disqualified Mr. Lim from Parliament for five years from the date of his release. He was handcuffed and led away.

A few weeks after Mr. Lim began his jail term, Mr. Anwar was dismissed, a move that shocked the country. Mr. Anwar was considered the man who would lead Malaysia into the 21st century.

The ousted deputy prime minister fought his dismissal with protests around the country, climaxing in a demonstration of tens of thousands of people in the center of Kuala Lumpur. He was arrested and beaten by the police, leaving him badly bruised.

A week later he was charged with sodomy and corruption.

His trial is nearing completion, but there is more to come.

"There are other charges against him that have not yet been proffered," Mr. Mahathir said recently. "Whether he is acquitted or not, he will have to face more."

If Mr. Anwar is convicted he might join Mr. Lim at Kajang prison in a similar cell. Mr. Lim seems to think so, anyway.

Prison authorities here in Kajang are making feverish preparations for his cell even though his trial is still continuing," Mr. Lim wrote Mr. Anwar.

"One is curious," he added, "how they can be so certain of your impending conviction."

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or Indonesia fer Promise and Risk

passing former nationalist and Christian parties.

Officials expect more than 140 parties to register for the June elections, although they say only about 30 will qualify for the contest.

Although there may yet be bitter contention, analysts agree that the process for selection of eligible parties, voter registration and the conduct of polling is no longer easy for the government to manipulate in its favor.

"This is an entirely new election, the likes of which we haven't seen in Indonesia since the 1950s," Mr. Rode said.

"You have a free press. You have multiple parties that will have observers all over the country. You have an agreement that there will be international monitors."

Still, many analysts worry that with the economy of the world's fourth most populous nation in crisis, millions of people out of work and living in poverty, widespread ethnic and religious tensions, and the once powerful armed forces unable to keep the peace, the elections could easily degenerate into violence and chaos.

Harry Tjan Silalahi, deputy chairman of the board of directors of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said there was a risk that competitive elections could rekindle disputes and violence.

"Yet a general election is necessary," he said. "It's the jury for settling political differences and putting in place a legitimate government to run Indonesia for the next five years."

Under Mr. Suharto, Golkar election victories by an overwhelming majority were a foregone conclusion. Now, even Golkar officials concede that the most likely outcome of the June voting will be a coalition government formed by two more parties.

Agreeing that the era of Golkar dominance had ended, the Indonesian secretary and presidential spokesman Akbar Tanjung said in an interview that "we understand that no single party will get 50 percent of the seats in Parliament."

But he said that Golkar expected to "much support" in the elections, and would be ready work with other parties to form a workable coalition.

Opposition leaders express similar sentiments. But the historical precedents are not encouraging. In 1955, political squabbling intensified after an election in which no party won a big enough majority to form a government in its own right.

The economy deteriorated. The President Sukarno and the military took control, ushering in a long period of "guided democracy," a euphemism for the authoritarian rule that Mr. Suharto continued.

BRIEFLY

China Cuts Ties With Macedonia

BEIJING — China severed diplomatic ties with Macedonia on Tuesday over the Balkan state's decision to establish relations with Taiwan, the Xinhua press agency said.

The move threw into question the future of a UN peacekeeping force stationed in Macedonia. A mandate for the UN force, which was deployed to deter the spread of fighting to Macedonia from other parts of the former Yugoslavia, expires Feb. 28.

China, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, has threatened to veto a renewal of the mandate because of Macedonia's ties with Taiwan. China considers Taiwan part of its territory.

U.S. Denies Offer To North Koreans

WASHINGTON — The United States denied Tuesday that it was planning to offer food to famine-stricken North Korea in exchange for permission to visit an underground building site that could be a ground nuclear facility.

Mr. Schroeder's center-left government wanted to reform the country's 1913 citizenship law, which is based on bloodlines, by giving long-term foreign residents German passports and allowing them to keep their original nationalities.

Interior Minister Otto Schily said the government still planned to offer German citizenship to millions of foreign residents but acknowledged that his original bill, due to be voted on this summer, might now have to be amended.

"It is our aim to modernize the citizenship law," Mr. Schily told Stern magazine in a preview of an article to appear Thursday.

We have repeatedly said we are ready to talk," he said. "I am open to any constructive suggestion." He added, however, that a compromise would be difficult.

The original bill would have allowed many foreign residents, mostly Turkish immigrants, to become German while retaining their existing passports.

Arguing that this unfairly disadvantaged "native" Germans, the Christian Democrats launched a nationwide petition against the plan and say they have collected more than 1 million signatures.

Volker Ruhe, a leading Christian Democratic politician, said many in his party would be prepared to back a citizenship reform if widespread dual citizenship rights for adults were removed from the bill.

Cambodian Chief In China for Talks

BEIJING — Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for talks with Chinese leaders amid speculation on whether China will block international efforts to prevent Khmer Rouge leaders.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman on Zhang Qiyue, did not say whether or China would withdraw its delegation to the UN Security Council to prevent the formation of an international tribunal. Such a move would offend Cambodian, with whom China has a close relationship.

Cambodia, a competitor with China for influence in the region when it ruled the country with terror,

By Paul Watson
Los Angeles Times Service

BELGRADE — More than a thousand ICN Pharmaceuticals Inc. workers walked off the job Monday to support their boss, Milan Panic, in his fight to take back a factory seized by the Yugoslav government.

But the police here turned the screws still tighter on the company's Yugoslav subsidiary by arresting six of its local vice presidents, Mr. Panic said.

"I think this is not about business anymore," Mr. Panic, chairman and chief executive officer, said in a telephone interview Monday from Hungary. "This is violating the human rights of these people. This cannot be left unpunished."

ICN Pharmaceuticals is based in Costa Mesa, California. The gov-

ernment seized the Yugoslav subsidiary Friday, and the police armed with assault rifles entered the plant Saturday to impose new management. Mr. Panic is a former Yugoslav prime minister and political rival of the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, who is fighting a U.S.-led pressure to make a permanent peace with ethnic-Albanian rebels in Kosovo Province.

Mr. Panic sees the government's move, which he labeled a nationalization, as part of an anti-American campaign stirred up by Serbian nationalists opposed to the Kosovo peace talks in France and to plans for putting about 30,000 NATO troops in Kosovo if a deal is reached.

Although they refused to blame Mr. Milosevic by name, both Mr. Panic and his general manager, Dusan Mitev, left no doubt they

believed that the Yugoslav president was behind the seizure of the plant.

"You have to keep in mind that the main way this government functions is through personal authority," Mr. Mitev said. "Only one person has power here. All others are executors." The state-run Health Fund of Serbia owes the Yugoslav subsidiary more than \$176 million that the government said in July it would not pay, he added.

In seizing the factory, the Yugoslav Federal Ministry of Health alleged that the company had failed to make investments as required by a 1991 agreement to purchase control of the plant, according to Bloomberg News. The government agency said the company was obliged to transfer \$220 million in drug patents to its Yugoslav subsidiary in addition to investing \$50

million in cash. The company says it has made all required investments.

Mr. Panic promised a year's full pay and benefits to employees who swear allegiance to his ownership, stop working for the new managers and sign a boycott pledge.

About 20 percent of the plant's 2,000 staff stayed away Monday and about 1,800 signed a promise to stand behind Mr. Panic, he maintained.

The government insists that 1,600 people returned to work. The Serbian health minister, Leposav Milicevic, said that many were former employees who had been laid off or fired by Mr. Panic for organizing trade unions.

The factory is Yugoslavia's largest drug manufacturer and, until Friday, was in its biggest privately owned company. Mr. Panic bought 75 percent control from the



Workers protesting at the Zemun ICN Galenika Co. plant outside Belgrade after the government seized it.

1,000 Strike After Belgrade Seizes Milosevic Foe's Plant

EUROPE

BRIEFLY

N.Y. Official Keeps Pressure on Bank

NEW YORK — The New York City comptroller, Alan Hevesi, said Tuesday he was not yet ready to withdraw his objections to the proposed merger between Deutsche Bank and Bankers Trust, saying he first needed to see a written agreement settling Holocaust claims against Germany's biggest bank.

Mr. Hevesi, speaking at a press conference, said he would continue to monitor the Holocaust negotiations and wanted to see a report in 30 days from officials involved in trying to settle the Nazi-era claims against Deutsche Bank. But he said, "We're not here to give Deutsche Bank a hard time."

The Deutsche Bank chairman, Rolf Breuer, in a German television interview, said the biggest-ever takeover of a U.S. bank would make no economic sense if delayed too long, and that new revelations about its past should not lead to fresh claims.

(Reuters)



Families of victims waiting Tuesday to enter the Paris court venue in the tainted-blood trial of three ex-ministers.

FRANCE: Trial of 3 Former Ministers Over Tainted Blood Begins

Continued from Page 1

to exclude those with a higher than average probability of having AIDS, such as homosexuals and prison inmates.

At least a thousand people who were infected by blood transfusions under government auspices, many of them hemophiliacs, have since died, including five of the seven victims named in the case. Agnes Cochon, whose baby boy, Charles-Edouard, got a transfusion for jaundice after birth and died of AIDS at

the age of 5, appeared as a witness Tuesday and angrily asked if the three ministers were not ashamed of the suffering they had caused.

Mr. Fabius, 52, a Socialist who is now speaker of the lower house of Parliament, stepped aside from the post but did not resign in advance of the trial, which is expected to last three weeks. If convicted, he could be sentenced to up to three years in prison; the ministers face possible sentences of up to five years, plus fines of up to \$90,000.

The court that is trying them was established in 1993 after a wave of public indignation, in the midst of a sea of political corruption cases developed by zealous prosecutors, about the effective immunity of government ministers.

Even today, the president of the republic, now Jacques Chirac, a conservative, is immune from criminal prosecution for any reason during his seven-year term of office, a privilege affirmed only last month by the country's highest administrative tribunal, the Constitutional Council. That body is headed by former Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, himself under investigation in a bribery and kickback scandal involving France's largest oil company, Elf Aquitaine SA.

The Court of Justice is the first in the 40-year history of the Fifth Republic that can try government ministers for alleged crimes committed while they were in office. It consists of 12 legislators, five of them members of the governing Socialist Party and seven from opposition conservative parties, plus three professional judges, with one of them, Christian Le Gineche, presiding.

Other courts have convicted four lower-ranking officials in previous trials, and 32 people are awaiting trial on various charges relating to deaths or illness after transfusions.

Defender of Mr. Fabius, once considered a leading contender for the French presidency, says that he is being unfairly maligned for a tragedy in which he was as much a victim as the patients who became infected with the disease.

The prime minister was not informed by his subordinates until April 29, 1985, associates say, about the possibility of systematic testing of blood and blood products for the AIDS virus.

He was not aware then of discussions about delaying a decision so that Diagnostics Pasteur, a French laboratory, could market a test that could compete with an American one that Abbott Laboratories was ready to introduce in France the previous month, his defenders say.

As Jews Woo Azerbaijan, Armenians Feel Left Out

By David B. Ottaway
and Dan Morgan
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The Jewish and Armenian communities in the United States, linked by similar immigrant experiences and memories of repression and genocide, have usually lobbied side by side in Washington's foreign policy battles to defend similar interests of Israel and the state of Armenia.

That is what made a dinner in the State Room of the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel last Nov. 18 such an eye-catching event.

At the podium was a senior leader of the Jewish community, which has become skilled at classic guerrilla hit-and-run tactics.

Kosovo is a potentially a much messier situation than Bosnia for NATO, officials said. Unlike Bosnia, which was sovereign yet which NATO could essentially control, Kosovo would remain part of Serbia during the three-year accord.

"We now have a lobby in the United States and that is the Jewish community," said Ilham Aliyev, son of Azerbaijan's president, Heydar Aliyev, and vice president of the Azeri Oil Co.

"No matter how strong the Armenian lobby is, I think the Jewish one is stronger."

In one of the more unusual realignments among foreign-policy lobbies working Capitol Hill, six Jewish American groups say they are only upholding the strategic interests of Israel, which seeks to forge friendships and alliances with secular Muslim countries that border Israel's two principal enemies, Iran and Iraq.

Spokesmen for the Jewish American groups say they are only upholding the strategic interests of Israel, which seeks to forge friendships and alliances with secular Muslim countries that border Israel's two principal enemies, Iran and Iraq.

Jewish support for Azerbaijan dovetails with Israel's deepening security alliance with the secular Muslim state of Turkey, which itself has close linguistic and cultural ties with Azerbaijan.

And while Israel has been busy bonding with Muslim Turkey and Azerbaijan, the ancient Christian land of Armenia has forged an even more unusual alliance with Islamic fundamentalist Iran.

For Israel, and for the United States, Iran has been a major security threat. For Armenia, Iran is a friendly neighbor and major trading partner.

The Armenian-Jewish split between two of the best-organized and financed Washington lobbies reflects the shake-up of alliances taking place among Middle East nations and their newfound friends in the Caucasus and Central Asia as a result of the Soviet Union's collapse.

Suddenly, Israel has been able to form alliances with the two Muslim countries that Armenia regards as its principal enemies.

Evidence of the falling-out surfaced last September during a two-hour House floor debate over a section of the 1992 Freedom Support Act that has prevented Azerbaijan from obtaining direct U.S. assistance at a time when Armenia has remained among the top recipients of U.S. aid.

In imposing sanctions seven years ago, Congress cited Azerbaijan's blockade of Armenia, which has continued despite a 1994 cease-fire between the two warring nations.

Since then, the United States has poured hundreds of millions of dollars of aid into Armenia but has limited assistance to Azerbaijan to humanitarian aid, despite lobbying by U.S. oil companies, which have their eyes on Azerbaijan's oil, on behalf of a more evenhanded policy.

The six Jewish American groups helped Azerbaijan to obtain some relief, but the pro-Armenian lobby stymied the campaign led by Representative Bob Livingston, Republican of Louisiana, then chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, to scrap the sanctions legislation altogether.

"That should be shocking to the Jewish organizations," remarked Ross Vartanian, executive director of the Armenian Assembly. "These groups don't lose many issues in Washington, and they did this time."

Officials of the Jewish American groups ascribe their defeat to a hasty, last-minute lobbying effort.

INTERNATIONAL

Sudanese Tests Find No Chemical Weapons at Bombed Plant

By James Risen
and David Johnston
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Chemists who examined soil, sludge and debris samples from a Sudanese pharmaceutical plant that was destroyed in August by American cruise missiles found no traces of chemical weapon compounds, according to a scientist hired by the owner of the plant.

The findings, though prepared privately for lawyers for the owner, who is now seeking redress from the United States, raise new questions about the government's reliance on tests of soil samples from the site obtained clandestinely by the CIA. American officials had said the samples contained traces of Empt, a precursor used in the production of deadly VX nerve gas.

The United States attacked the Al Shifa pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum

and suspected terrorist training camps near Khost, Afghanistan, on Aug. 20 in an effort to curb the activities of the Saudi exile Osama bin Laden after the bombings of two American embassies in East Africa. U.S. officials have said that the bin Laden terrorist network was behind the bombings of the diplomatic missions in Kenya and Tanzania. Mr. bin Laden has denied any role in the bombings.

At the heart of the new evidence are 13 carefully catalogued samples taken from the wrecked plant and its grounds late in October. The sampling project was designed and supervised by Thomas Tullius, chairman of the chemistry department at Boston University.

"The point of what we did was to carefully and scientifically collect samples from a variety of locations and have them analyzed by one of the top laboratories in the world for this kind of work," Mr. Tullius said in an interview. "What they found was that in those

samples, to the practical limits of scientific detection, there was no Empt or Empt, its breakdown product."

In response to the new findings, Clinton administration officials said they stood by their decision to strike the plant. The officials dismissed the findings of chemists working on behalf of the plant's owner, Salih Idris, noting that their soil samples were taken long after the United States obtained its soil from the site and long after the bombing and rains could have dispersed incriminating evidence.

Moreover, while acknowledging that they did not know that Mr. Idris owned the plant at the time of the attack, other U.S. officials say they now have strong evidence linking him to Mr. bin Laden.

"We stand by our evidence indicating the presence of a chemical weapons precursor at this plant," said P.J. Crowley, a spokesman for the National Security Council at the White House. "We stand by our evidence linking this plant to

Osama bin Laden's network. We continue to believe that this was an appropriate action to pre-empt Osama bin Laden from further attacks against the United States."

In the study for the owner, several ground locations at the plant were surveyed, along with interior sites in the plant that were covered by debris and partly protected from rain. One location, a septic tank, was found intact and provided what Mr. Tullius said was a historical record of the chemicals flushed through the plant drains.

The lab analysis found that none of the samples contained detectable levels of Empt, nor did they find Empt, the subsidiary compound into which Empt rapidly breaks down. Empt, Mr. Tullius said, breaks down within days, but Empt remains in the soil, and even in small quantities would be detectable for weeks or months after contact with the ground.

In addition to the evaluation of the soil

BRIEFLY
Taleban Won't Tell Bin Laden to Leave

ISLAMABAD — The ruling Taleban said Tuesday that the Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden was free to leave Afghanistan but that he would not be forced out, the Afghan Islamic Press reported.

The decision by the leadership of the Taleban, the Islamic group that controls most of Afghanistan, followed the latest U.S. request for Mr. bin Laden to be expelled, a Taleban spokesman said. The spokesman said the Taleban was still waiting for evidence to support allegations that Mr. bin Laden was a terrorist mastermind.

Mr. bin Laden has been accused by the United States of masterminding the bombings of two U.S. embassies in East Africa last year that killed more than 200 people. (AP)

Minister Quits In Iran After Agents Are Tied to Deaths

TEHRAN — Iran's intelligence minister has resigned, four weeks after his ministry admitted its agents were involved in the killing of five dissidents, Iranian media reported Tuesday. President Mohammed Khatami accepted the resignation of Qorbanali Dorri-Najafabadi, thanking him for his "great efforts and services," the official Tehran radio reported.

The president asked Mr. Dorri-Najafabadi to continue in office until his replacement had been approved by the Parliament, the radio reported.

Mr. Khatami has appointed Ali Yunesi, the chief military prosecutor, to replace Mr. Dorri-Najafabadi, reported the Iran Daily.

In his resignation letter to Mr. Khatami, Mr. Dorri-Najafabadi, 54, said he hoped his resignation would bring about a more suitable atmosphere at the ministry and would not be a pretext for "vindictive enemies and uninformed friends" to harm the ministry.

The hard-working employees of the Intelligence Ministry did not and will not approve the recent tragic and unfortunate incidents that would make any honorable human being unhappy. I, too, was and am strongly against them and have been saddened by them," Mr. Dorri-Najafabadi said in the letter. The text was broadcast on Tehran radio.

There have been continuing calls for Mr. Dorri-Najafabadi's resignation since his ministry said Jan. 5 that some of its agents had been arrested in connection with a spate of killings of writers and dissidents that began in November.

The murders were followed by "cruel and hostile attacks" by enemies inside and outside Iran against the "country's great intelligence and security apparatus," wrote Mr. Dorri-Najafabadi.

The revelation that staff members at the ministry were behind the killings intensified the rivalry between hard-line and moderate factions in the government.

Both sides, locked in a bitter power struggle, have tried to distance themselves from the killings. The agents behind the killings are widely believed to be supporters of the hard-liners. The Intelligence Ministry is controlled by the hard-line faction.

The government has said that "foreign elements" had masterminded the killings. It denied that senior officers had approved the "cruel" murders. The first victims, Dariush Forough and his wife, Parvaneh, who belonged to a minor opposition party, were found stabbed to death in their Tehran home on Nov. 22. In the following weeks, the writers Mohammed Jafar Pouyandeh and Mohammed Mokhtari disappeared and their bodies were found dumped on the outskirts of Tehran. A third writer, Majid Sharif, was found dead after disappearing from his home.

Mexico Center-Left Makes Gains
2 State Elections Show Growing Popularity for Opposition

By Julia Preston
New York Times Service

MEXICO CITY — Elections for governor in two states over the weekend, the nation's first major voting this year, demonstrate the continuing growth of a left-of-center party that has capitalized on dissension in the governing party.

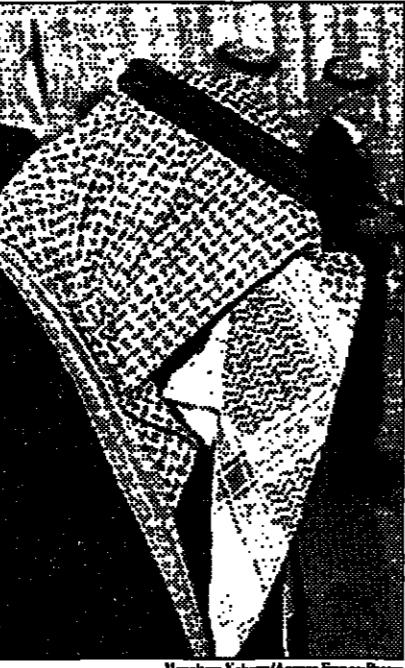
The challenger, the Party of the Democratic Revolution, won the top post in Baja California Sur, which includes Los Cabos and other beach resorts. Its candidate, Leonel Cota Montano, trounced his opponent from the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party, 55 percent to 36 percent.

Mr. Cota built his coalition with the help of disgruntled members of the governing party who had hoped to be the party's candidate or to help choose the candidate. They bolted to the Party of the Democratic Revolution when their views were disregarded.

The voting on Sunday was uneventful, with few irregularities reported. The PRI did not challenge Mr. Cota's victory.

Since July 1997, the Party of the Democratic Revolution has won three gubernatorial posts. In Zacatecas and Tlaxcala last year, the party also achieved statehouse victories by winning disaffected leaders from the governing party.

In addition, the political leader of the party, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, won the powerful office of mayor of Mexico City, with official stature equal to a governor.



Prince Ali, left, and Crown Prince Hamzah, sons of King Hussein, at the Jordanian leader's funeral at Raghada Palace in Amman. At left, a man wiping his eyes after paying his respects to the king's sons.

Jordanians Solemn at Grave Site and Ponder Future

By Douglas Jehl
New York Times Service

AMMAN, Jordan — Thousands of Jordanians from desert camps, urban shacks and sleek, modern villas, made their way to the royal palace on Tuesday to offer sympathy to King Abdullah II and prayers for his late father.

Queen Noor, the widow of King Hussein, and other female members of the royal family prayed separately at the king's grave.

A day after a remarkable state funeral, the pageants on Tuesday were suffused with a personal touch that reflected, in its own way, the emotional bond that since Jordan's creation in 1923 has helped to hold the land together as a kingdom.

"We believe Abdullah will be fine," said Sheikh Samir Aroumi, 57, who waited with others from throughout Jordan to meet with the new 37-year-old king in the throne chamber of Raghada Palace. "This cub is from the lion king."

The events of the day were rooted in tradition — tribal shows of fealty to a monarch, along with calculated modern tributes to a court that, in one way or another, remains Jordan's dominant force.

But they also clearly reflected true grief, as well as a hope that a new generation of kingship might bring fresh attention to problems at home.

The late king, God protect him, was loved by the world," said Khalid Magan, 28, who was in the crowd. "We know that Abdullah will be loved as well, especially if these hard times can be made lighter."

For most Jordanians, the most immediate concern is unemployment, which economists say has soared to a rate higher than the official figures of 15 percent.

Most salaries have also remained stagnant, even as inflation has cut deeply into paychecks of government workers.

A sense of pride still echoed in the

words of many Jordanians, from cabinet ministers to Bedouin tribesmen. They took satisfaction not only in the numbers of the statesmen who traveled to a somber state funeral, but in the fact that the occasion prompted a warm gesture from Syria, a neighbor generally regarded more often as threat than friend.

Not only did President Hafez Assad make a surprise trip to Jordan for the funeral but he was also the first in line to pay tribute to King Abdullah, who was just 8 years old when Mr. Assad took power in a military coup.

Syria and Jordan have been at odds, off and on, even before the new monarch was born.

In 1958, at a time of anti-Western turmoil in the Middle East, Syrian military jets tried to force from the skies an aircraft carrying King Hussein to Europe.

In 1970, Syria massed its forces along the Jordanian border again, accusing Jordan of supporting a campaign of violence by the Muslim Brotherhood.

And since 1994, when Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel, relations have been all but frozen by Syria, which has not yet made its peace with the Jewish state and has objected vehemently to the accords signed by other Arabs.

Mr. Assad had not visited Jordan since 1994, and he last met with King Hussein in 1996. But at the state funeral, after passing through the receiving line, he was among those who spoke at length with the new king in the plush gold coaches of a royal salon.

From Damascus, Syrian officials have also sent conciliatory gestures, expressing hope that the change of leadership might mark the beginning of a new chapter in the often-strained relationship between the two countries.

On Saturday, as King Hussein lay dying, the Syrian foreign minister,

Farouk Shara, sent an important signal, saying in a lecture in the Syrian capital that the government no longer intended to make much of an issue of the Israeli-Jordan peace pact.

Syria remains opposed to the accord, Mr. Shara said, but does not want to see Israeli-Jordanian ties supersede those between Jordan and fellow Arabs.

The Syrian overtures may reflect a softening of the fury felt by Damascus toward the Israeli-Jordanian peace accord.

But more likely, diplomats said Tuesday, it reflects a yet-unsubstantiated hope that a younger, more malleable

new Jordanian ruler might prove less bold than King Hussein, and more inclined to toe a pro-Arab line.

Iraq, which to Jordan is another powerful, sometimes worrying neighbor, has also expressed hope for a change in tone.

The two countries have been bitterly at odds in recent years, since Jordan, having tilted toward Iraq during the Gulf war of 1991, reversed course in 1995.

At that time, the Jordanian government provided asylum to two powerful Baghdad defectors and called for the first time for a change in the Iraqi leadership.

CLINTON: Impeachment Trial Enters Final Stage in Senate

Continued from Page 1

ILLINOIS, the new majority leader, said he hoped to open a new chapter in Republicans' oftenstrained relations with the president.

Asked in a CNN interview whether he was ready to work with Mr. Clinton once the trial is over, Mr. Hastert said: "Absolutely. He's the president of the United States, and the Congress, if we're going to get anything done, has to work with the president."

Senators continued struggling Tuesday over the language of a censure resolution aimed at condemning Mr. Clinton's efforts to conceal his intimate relationship with Monica Lewinsky, the former White House volunteer worker.

A small group of conservative Republicans have declared censure unconstitutional and threatened parliamentary maneuvers to block it. A few liberal Democrats also oppose censure, deeming it unnecessary.

One conservative Republican, Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, put the chances of a vote this week on censure at no better than "50-50."

Another Republican, Senator Larry

Craig of Idaho, referred to censure as "a rose that is beginning to wilt." He said chances were small that senators would consider it before their weeklong recess.

Failure to pass a censure motion this week might doom it, some proponents say. The minority leader, Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota, insisted that Democrats would return to the issue later if necessary, but some senators said interest will fade quickly once the trial is over. The White House has supported censure as an alternative to impeachment and conviction, but likely would drop that support following an acquittal.

The final arguments Monday appeared aimed more at historians than the 100 senators, who had heard the arguments and seem to have made up their minds.

The House prosecutors, all Republicans, sought to justify their work, which has been unpopular with most Americans, according to opinion polls.

The prosecution team allowed all 13 of its members a chance to speak. The lead prosecutor, Representative Henry Hyde, closed with eloquent, if sometimes scathing remarks.

Democrats relied on Mr. Starr's legal team to argue that the case for impeachment was weak and that the trial was a waste of time.

• Republican senators said they would pass to Mr. Starr unsubstantiated information suggesting that the White House had a taping system that might have recorded telephone conversations between Mr. Clinton and Miss Lewinsky.

The White House has denied the existence of such a system, and some Democrats said they suspected that reports of its existence were intended to influence the final impeachment votes.

• Senate Republicans sought unsuccessfully to subpoena a British journalist and two others who have filed affidavits suggesting that Sidney Blumenthal, a White House aide, misled questioners during the Senate trial. Democrats blocked the motion.

GERMANY: Jobless Data Add to Schroeder Woes

Continued from Page 1

January's figures are also 368,000 fewer than in January last year, when German unemployment hit a post World War II record of 12.8 percent.

Reflecting the mounting pressure on the government, Mr. Schroeder's party Tuesday decided to rush its most urgent and controversial economic legislation through the Bundestag in March before the new Hesse government takes office in April and creates a blocking majority for the opposition.

The Hesse election threw the Social Democrats into turmoil over its tax reforms plan. But the party now hopes to avoid a blockade by railroading the tax plan through Parliament. The opposition wants to torpedo Mr. Schroeder's tax reform plan, which imposes heavy burdens on industry and offers relatively meager tax reductions.

The militant IG Metall union continued a wave of warning strikes across Germany to keep pressure on a critical round of contract bargaining talks.

Germany's largest union, which sets wages for 3.4 million industry- and autoworkers, is demanding a 6.5 percent wage increase and has rejected an offer from employers for a raise between 2.3 and 2.8 percent.

Labor tensions are putting strains on another cornerstone of Mr. Schroeder's economic policy. Industry argues that the unions could torpedo Mr. Schroeder's "Alliance for Jobs" program, which was conceived as a roundtable of labor, big business and government to fight unemployment.

Unemployment could rise with a generous raise, critics charge. Hans-Olaf Henkel, president of the German Industry Federation, accused IG

Metall of breaching the spirit of the roundtable talks. If IG Metall, which said it would not settle below 4 percent, wins an aggressive wage increase over 3 percent, that will cause another increase in unemployment this year, Mr. Henkel said.

Unions remain adamant. Ursula Engelen-Kefler, deputy chief of the German Federation of Labor, said it was time for a generation pay increase after years of modest union gains. "We have some catching up to do," Ms. Engelen-Kefler said.

The European Central Bank also signaled its concerns over the German unemployment rate. Speaking in Stuttgart only a few kilometers from where IG Metall held its talks, the ECB president, Wim Duisenberg, called on unions to accept "moderate" wage increases, saying hefty hikes could hurt the economy, already weighed down by the global economic slowdown.

Mr. Duisenberg reiterated the bank's concern over Europe's high joblessness, but he rebuffed pressure on the bank to cut interest rates to counter joblessness. (Page 13.)

Euro-area interest rates are currently comparable with promoting economic growth and lower rates could endanger price stability and the bank's inflation-fighting reputation, the central banker said. Bloomberg reported.

"Monetary policy can do nothing more," he said.

It remains up to governments to take the lead in breaking up rigidities in labor markets, the central banker said. "The appropriate answer to this is structural reform of the economy, aimed at breaking down inflexibilities," he said.

Mr. Schroeder is certain to confront tensions within his own coalition over taxes and other issues.

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OPINION/LETTERS

Absolute Certainty Leads to Blindness

By Anthony Lewis

BOSTON — Representative Lindsey Graham's voice trembled as he quoted the Republican prosecutors' presentation of evidence. "For God's sake," he told the Senate, "figure out what kind of person we have here in the White House."

Why the trembling? Frustration, I think. Mr. Graham and the other Republican managers are true believers. They believe that an evil president is about to be acquitted of the impeachment charges, and they cannot understand why.

If they could only see it, one reason is their very certainty: someone would bring some clues. But even those who believe throwing money at things, mate when the "truth" is made.

This is dangerous. Being given resources to keep everything going tempts the military to unnecessary examination. There is less need for direction of resources, no pressure to innovate to meet new challenges.

Americans are wise to be uncomfortable with absolutism. Sir Isaiah Berlin, the great British historian-philosopher, showed us that certainty has been the hallmark of totalitarian movements.

The Republican managers did not understand how their zealous troubleshooters could hold their own.

There are always two sides to a world, but the nature of those sides is changing rapidly. When the days of the U.S. military are over, the president will have to find a way to avoid Con-

cern, instead of sending a continued threat, requires the American people to be held in awe.

Most Americans do not want to be governed by men who know they are always right. Most Americans believe that life has to have room in it for uncertainty, for change, for

People could imagine themselves in the hands of relentless partisan prosecutors.

There was a moment in Monica Lewinsky's deposition, not much noticed, that showed how out of touch the Republican managers were with reality. Representative Ed Bryant asked her why she wanted to avoid testifying in the Paula Jones case about her relationship with the president.



Her answer, devastating in its obviousness, was:

"First of all, I thought it was nobody's business. Second of all, I didn't want anything to do with Paula Jones or her case."

The managers dripped with sympathy for Ms. Lewinsky. The president "threw her life on the ash heap," Representative James Rogan said. Yes, if Mr. Clinton had had the sense to turn away when she flirted with him, he would have done himself and her great favor. But it was Mr. Starr and the House Republicans who made her life into a spectacle.

Henry Hyde repeatedly sneered that the Democrats had called "professors" to testify, a piece of anti-intellectual demagogery worthy of George Wallace. He never mentioned the five career prosecutors, Democratic and Republican who said they would never have prosecuted such a case.

That goes to the heart of the Republican failure here. The extremists on the House Judiciary Committee insisted that the president had committed crimes, and that removal from office must follow. They would not even allow the House to consider the penalty that would have fit the character of the offense, a censure motion.

The charges of perjury and obstruction of justice are supported by nothing but surmise and conjecture. As the White House counsel, Charles Ruff,

said, neither charge would survive a motion to dismiss in any court.

But the managers kept saying that they were doing their constitutional duty as if the constitution required them to press a partisan case for impeachment on flimsy grounds.

If the Republican Party wants to win national elections, it is going to have to do something about the party elements, in and out of Congress, that took the country into this needless impeachment process.

As the Duke of Wellington said when he looked at some of his own forces, "I don't know what effect these men will have on the enemy, but by God they terrify me."

The New York Times.

A Compassionate Conservative Embraces the Art of Emoting

By George E. Will

WASHINGTON — In a television interview, Governor George Bush of Texas was asked to explain his goal of "prosperity with a moral and spiritual center." Mr. Bush answered by citing the need to "really what I call the armies of compassion" across the state of Texas to interface with our young, to help and to mentor," and so on. But he finally said,

"It's really all based around a story."

The story is that Mr. Bush visited a juvenile justice facility, where a boy asked him, "What do you think of me?"

MEANWHILE

Mr. Bush says, "It was a question that was so profound and so right." It means, Mr. Bush says, "Is there a role for me in society?"

Maybe that is what the boy meant. Certainly Mr. Bush's answer means he is attuned to the times. He is fluent in the emotive language of today's therapeutic ethos. This fluency of a Republican raised in Midland, Texas, testifies to the ubiquity of the culture of emotional vulnerability.

Early in his presidency, Bill Clinton took his cabinet to Camp David for a sensitivity session, complete with "facilitators" to facilitate the sharing of feelings by participants who were in recovery from substance abuse. A participant told *The Washington Post*, "Don't try to make this sound weird." Heaven forefend.

One of Newt Gingrich's first acts when elected speaker was to hire a "corporate psychotherapist" to help Republicans communicate their feelings to the public. Such recourse to the "caring professions" is now normal. The sensitivity industry is booming in the United States, there being more therapists than firefighters, librarians or mail carriers, and twice as many as there are dentists or pharmacists. Government cannot be hermetically sealed against the culture.

Mr. Bush's rhetoric, like Mr. Clinton's, which it mimics, is evidence of more than just conservative panic about the public's receptivity to Mr. Clinton's belief that pathos is the primary business of politics.

Rather, Mr. Bush's manner of speaking is evidence that Mr. Clinton's political style is not idiosyncratic but sympathetic. The conflation of culture and government is far advanced.

James Nolan Jr., professor of sociology at Williams College, understands the implications of the dialectical relation between compassionate government and the therapeutic culture. In his book "The Therapeutic State: Justifying Government at Century's End," he argues that government tends to expand; that expansion tends to produce a crisis

of legitimacy; that the therapeutic mission both fuels and legitimizes government's expansions into new spheres of society's and individuals' lives.

The therapeutic ethos increasingly infuses civil case law that elevates the status of emotions by awarding damages for distress unrelated to physical injury.

It treats crimes as pathologies, drug cases especially, but also sometimes regarding burglary, prostitution, domestic violence, writing bad checks and other offenses. Defendants are "clients."

The aim is "healing" or "recovery." Recidivism is not proof of failure in "treatment" because relapse is part of recovery from the "sickles" of crime.

Proof of recovery is the "client" pleasing his government therapist by assenting to the pathological interpretation of his behavior and thus to the ideology of victimization. Crime is caused by an abusive or otherwise pathological childhood.

The therapeutic orientation of education postulates that a prerequisite for learning is a government-approved and encouraged frame of mind — "self-esteem." Government occasionally makes mandatory a pharmacological "remedy," Ritalin, for the suddenly epidemic problem of Attention Deficit Disorder. Mr. Nolan says therapeutic welfare policy also involves government concern not only with behavior but with the internal workings of individuals — intentions, motives, family relationships, etc.

Clinton-esque, meaning self-referential, rhetoric is part of the substance of traditional therapeutic politics.

Count the times Mr. Clinton says "I feel good about" this or "I feel comfortable about" that. Count the ways government insinuates itself into intimacy with citizens.

Mr. Bush, avatar of "compassionate conservatism," began his interview by endorsing "limited government." However, compassion means the prevention or amelioration of pain, including the emotional pain of disappointment or hurt feelings.

A compassionate government's work is never done. That work, and the government that undertakes it, is unlimited.

The truthful answer to the question the boy put to Mr. Bush would be: "Young man, I don't know you, and it is not the business of government to get to know everyone personally. Society would be suffocated, and individual liberty jeopardized, by a government that tried to."

But Mr. Bush, like all thoroughly modern masters of the politics of pathos, understands that the therapeutic ethic sternly forbids such sternness.

Washington Post Writers Group.

The Senate Should Leave the Writing of History to Historians

By David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — Platoons of senators, strapped in their chairs all day Saturday and forced to watch portions of the videotaped interviews with three impeachment trial witnesses — tapes most of them had already seen in their entirety — burst forth on the Sunday morning television shows and vented their bottled-up thoughts.

It was not an edifying spectacle. Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia, the chamber's unofficial historian, told ABC's Cokie Roberts that he had concluded that President Bill Clinton had committed "high crimes and misdemeanors." And then this son, who declared that "the constitution is just like the Bible" in its immutability, said he might let Mr. Clinton off because he had less than two years to serve, the economy was strong and most people wanted him to stay. Did he find those exceptions somewhere in the impeachment clause — or just in the wanderings of his own mind?

Mr. Byrd's confusion was symptomatic of the answers senators gave when various moderates asked: What will you do if the Senate, as widely forecast, decides later this week to acquit Mr. Clinton of the perjury and obstruction of justice charges passed by the House?

The right answer, which occurred to only a few of them, is: Nothing.

Once the votes have been cast, the constitutional process is over. The House and Senate have discharged their responsibilities.

And the lawmakers and their con-

stituents will have plenty of time to reflect on what has occurred.

The constitution provides only one method of dealing with a lawless president: impeachment and conviction, which means automatic removal. A president may resign, but Mr. Clinton long ago rejected that honorable course of action. Still, a good many senators said they were uncomfortable letting acquittal be the final word from them. "I don't want the vote to acquit viewed as a vote to exonerate," said Senator Susan Collins of Maine, a Republican. These senators said they would be more comfortable if acquittal were quickly followed by what they called "a strong, bipartisan resolution of censure."

Senator John (Jay) Rockefeller 4th, like Mr. Byrd a West Virginia Democrat, declared, "I want to be able to say to myself and my people, 'What he did was wrong.'" To which the proper reply is: Say it, senator. No one is stopping you. Say it in any way you like, and send word all over the state.

But stand up and do it yourself. Do not seek comfort in numbers.

Do not attack to the constitutional process of impeachment an improvised makeshift of uncertain impact and dubious precedent, simply to solve a short-term public relations problem.

Senator Dianne Feinstein, the California Democrat who has been trying to

draft a bipartisan censure resolution, bristled when Senator Phil Gramm, the Texas Republican who is perhaps the most outspoken opponent of censure, said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that "censure is about giving political cover." Senator Joseph Lieberman, a Connecticut Democrat and one of Ms. Feinstein's collaborators, said: "It is not about politics. It's about values."

Assume that to be true. But consider: Does a resolution of censure add anything to the weight of 100 senators voicing their individual denunciations of the president's behavior? If not, it is redundant, an exercise without meaning.

If it does add something, it is presumably a form of punishment less severe than conviction and removal from office. But there is no sanction for such a punishment in the constitution, and the precedents are terrible. Andrew Jackson was once censured by the Senate, only to have it erased when party control switched. Mr. Gramm pointed out, as I have previously, that Richard Nixon recommended censure of President Harry Truman for firing General Douglas MacArthur, which made Mr. Truman wildly unpopular at the time but is now viewed as an act of statesmanship.

Mr. Gramm also argued that once censure enters the lexicon of congressional punishments, the separation of powers is eviscerated and the stage is set for Congress to use censure to club the president or even the Supreme Court whenever a majority of lawmakers wishes.

The inherent problems in the censure option are reflected in the confusion among its proponents. Ms. Feinstein and Olympia Snowe of Maine, a Republican, insist there be no negotiations with the White House. Senator Christopher Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, wants the censure to be signed by the president, obviously requiring negotiations. He also wants the House brought aboard, which means another protracted set of discussions. And for what? "For the history books," say Ms. Feinstein and others.

Far better to leave Mr. Clinton — and Congress — to the judgment of history. These folks have made enough of a hash of things already.

The Washington Post.

Unfinished Task

ed that sense of exhaustion out of your body as from the airport into the capital of Amman. Wasn't Switzerland, with many of its own trials of retribution, a desert of retribution? Arab countries under are stable, too, stability was bought, not retail. In places you or I, Iraq, stability can be gained by taking away freedoms, by taking away speech, by taking away the right to vote, by my political parties.

But it is the other way, why his people have no real tears.

He is with people outside.

It is odd to

see him reacting to

the news of the

war in the

Lebanon.

He is not

because he

is a man of

the future.

He is because he

is a man of the

past.

He is because he

is a man of the

present.

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Record Nabob Sets the Tempo

Dodging Danger in Music Business

By Mike Zwerin
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — As the co-chief executive and co-chairman of Atlantic Records, Ahmet Ertegun has to bear his share of the blame for the condition of the major labels, which were recently described as being gripped by "hypercaution, creative torpor and industrial paralysis."

He does not agree with any of it. First of all, in all fairness, he also deserves to bear his share of pride in the key role he played in the worthy careers of people from Ornette Coleman to Aretha Franklin (by way of Crosby, Stills and Nash and the Modern Jazz Quartet).

And second, he contradicts the almost universally accentuated negative. "We have good men running the record business," he said, and proceeded to cite a half-dozen or so.

The way he put it, they were pretty much all knowledgeable and reasonable men who love music. Listening to his take on the current state of affairs, it would seem that he was describing a totally different industry, or another time or both. "You can't bat a thousand," he responded. "It's a business fraught with danger."

Ertegun, 74, is a veteran record man with an impressive track record and a deep musical culture. Along with that of his late brother and partner Nesuhi, his name could almost be up there as part of the name of the label itself. They are icons.

Lately, he has been promoting "Blues Blues Blues," an album he produced by the Jimmy Rogers All-Stars, featuring Taj Mahal, Jeff Healey, Kim Wilson, Carey Bell, Johnnie Johnson and Lowell Fulson. "This album is chock full of magic moments," he said. "And although everybody says, 'Wow, all those names!' and that's good because it leads people to listen to it, what's really good about the album is not the famous people on it but that they play the blues so well."

If that is true, then the fact that Mick Jagger, Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page, Robert Plant, Keith Richards and Stephen Stills — all impressively deliberately primitive — are also featured on it is not essential information. He hangs out with these people, they are great friends of his.

"These people did not agree to be on the record because they are great friends of mine," Ertegun continued. "They did it because they are all real fine blues people and they loved Jimmy Rogers. We never got a turn down. Whenever we asked was very happy to play with Jimmy Rogers."

Rogers, who died at 74 before the album was completed last year, was rhythm guitarist with the Muddy Waters Chicago blues band, which changed the sound of the blues when it electrified.

Also a songwriter and a singer, Rogers wrote some of the songs and sings on the album. The Muddy Waters band was a prime influence on the first generation of rock stars who pay homage to him by performing on this tribute:

"When you go to these guys' homes," Ertegun said of the all-stars, "you understand that the old-time blues by these original black players is what they choose to listen to. We have heard this song before — English guitar heroes honoring the original black bluesmen (while borrowing their music).

Ertegun, however, is very good at putting everybody's best foot forward; his own as well as the musicians' and the industry's. He admitted that many of the early bluesmen were treated unfairly by the record companies, with their "low royalty rates and creative bookkeeping." But he also outlined how Atlantic redressed the balance by forgiving debit balances and contributing millions to the Rhythm and Blues Foundation:

"Atlantic never did any of that shabby stuff, but I'm the last person from that era left, so I guess I bear the brunt of everybody else's sins."

The "sins" have since multiplied. Universal and PolyGram have just merged into the world's biggest record company.

IT'S A WALL STREET world now," Norman Lebrecht wrote in The Daily Telegraph in London. "Some 200 rock bands have been dropped by their labels, and 3,000 staff dismissed. Seagram, the liquor empire, which owns the restructured Universal Music Group, needs to save \$200 million this year to pay for the purchase."

Lebrecht talked about a "trail of bodies" and an "already somber sector plunged into deep gloom."

The merged entity will command 24 percent of world record sales. Many industry people, not to mention musicians, are worried about the "suits," accountants and lawyers, making creative decisions, and about each quarter's profits being the principal measure of success. Atlantic is part of the Time Warner group, which merged such labels as Elektra, East West and Rhino.

"We think we've been successful in maintaining the character of each label with diminishing staff," Ertegun said. "At Atlantic, we're running a very good company. And it gets better every year. We continue to develop new artists. The so-called quote 'suite' unquote do not tell us to sign up the 'Squirrelheads' over here instead of the 'Jerkos' over there. They know we know what we're doing and they rely on us to bring in the profits.

"It's terrible when a lot of people get fired. But you need to see the perspective. Over the years, my partners changed, new people became president and co-chairman and so forth. Everybody new who came in every year or six months or so brought in their own team and signed new acts. Nobody was fired. There's a limit.

"After all the turmoil of our merger," Ertegun went on, "we sat back, looked at what we had, listened to what they did, and we decided to let some 50 to 60 artists go. We just didn't have room to promote all of them correctly. Now we have many fewer artists but we stay with them much longer. And you know, sometimes an artist won't sell very much, but it's still nice to have the prestige of an album that is listed by critics as one of the 10 best of the year."

Whereas other senior executives would be content to settle for either sales or — not too often — prestige alone, he'll go for both.

He guesses that Atlantic's classic John Coltrane record "Giant Steps" has by now sold well over a million copies since it was recorded as an LP. And "oddly enough," the Jimmy Rogers album is turning out to be more than mere prestige: "It has shown strong initial strength," Ertegun said. "We're getting a lot of air play. We're getting solid sales. I think we are going to do very well with it."

Lebrecht talked about a "trail of bodies" and an "already somber sector plunged into deep gloom."

The merged entity will command 24 percent of world record sales. Many industry people, not to mention musicians, are worried about the "suits," accountants and lawyers, making creative decisions, and about each quarter's profits being the principal measure of success. Atlantic is part of the Time Warner group, which merged such labels as Elektra, East West and Rhino.

"We think we've been successful in maintaining the character of each label



Ahmet Ertegun puts musicians' best feet forward.

Charles Riedel

— or to bring them all face to face with each other, as at one of those McNamee Fire Island beach weekends, we shall never know. Gill goes his own bleak way, mercilessly mocking the eccentricities of gay culture but also tacitly admitting that the alternative to coming out is staying in, and that can't be much fun either.

Gay activists will find nothing to cheer in "Certain Young Men," and its ultimate conclusion is oddly negative — gays should forego victim status and just try to make peace with themselves and a still-hostile outside world of ruggers and mockers. Gill comes full circle, back to Coward's philosophy that sex is not necessarily something to shout about, and that sexual politics is a contradiction in terms.

Jeremy Northam leads a strong cast, but if Gill had not been his own director the play could possibly have been more sharply focused in production.

At the New End, Carlo Arnto's "Brief Candle" is trapped somewhere between a play and a recital, and might look a lot better on a charity Sunday night than in a full performance schedule.

It tells the curious story of Marie Bashkirseff, a singer, painter and diarist who died of tuberculosis at 24 in 1884. Early death proved to be her most brilliant career move, since she then became briefly a patron saint of the new arts world and enjoyed vast, albeit short-lived, posthumous fame all over Europe.

Arnto has cobbled together her brief life adequately enough, and Denis Quillie does his usual sterling service as the narrator and as several of the men in Marie's life, for a production directed by his wife, Stella Quillie.

The problem is that Gill doesn't tell us enough about any of his men to make us really care what happens to them. We are given brisk background sketches, but these 17 brief dialogues began as workshop exercises seven years ago and have never really graduated to full dramatic status.

Whether it might have been better to give them some central connection — the characters all passing some sexually-transmitted disease to each other

about as quietly revolutionary as it can get. "Certain Young Men" says that there is no such thing as community, that people who adore Calvin Klein or Judy Garland or Maria Callas might be just that, not necessarily trying to crack a lifestyle code.

Gays, in a crude synopsis of Gill's text, are just like everyone else except that they happen to be gay. They get together, separate, bicker, reconcile and in the end try to work out whether it is time to move on to other partners.

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THE AMERICAS

New AMR Chief Faces Pilot Strife

By Laurence Zuckerman
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — When Donald Carty took over as chairman and chief executive of AMR Corp. last May, he said his first priority was to improve the bitter labor relations at American Airlines, the country's second-largest carrier, that had developed under his combative predecessor, Robert Crandall.

Now, Mr. Carty is learning just how big a challenge that is.

On Tuesday, American was forced to cancel 32 percent, or 730 of its 2,250 daily flights as pilots called in sick for the fourth day in a row. On Monday, 500 flights were canceled. The pilots are angry about American's plans to integrate Reno Air, a small regional carrier it bought in December, into its larger network.

The dispute has inconvenienced thousands of passengers and threatens to disrupt the coming President's Day holiday weekend, when flights all over the country will be full. But before that happens, Mr. Carty hinted strongly in a news conference Monday,

American would seek a court injunction ordering the pilots to stop their job action.

The fact that the airline is facing such difficulty came as a surprise to executives at other carriers and to Wall Street analysts. Shares of AMR, American's parent company, fell \$2.9375 on Monday to close at \$57 on the first day of trading since the disruption began. On Tuesday, the shares were at \$56 in late trading, down \$1.

"This should never have happened," said Samuel Buttrick, an industry analyst with PaineWebber in New York. "Other airlines in the past have worked out pilot-integration issues on much larger mergers without this unnecessary disruption to operations."

Mr. Carty expressed dismay, asserting: "It is hard for me to believe that this is really about the Reno acquisition. I wish I knew what it was."

He said that American was willing to reopen talks at any time with the Allied Pilots Association, the independent union that represents American's 9,200 pilots.

[American Airlines and its pilots union agreed late Tuesday to resume negotiations later in the day, The Associated Press reported from Fort Worth, Texas.]

Gregg Overman, an association spokesman, said the disruption was a "grass-roots initiative" that was not led by the union.

Much of the pilots' current anger can be traced back to their abortive strike two years ago, which was ended only minutes after it began when President Bill Clinton ordered the pilots back to work. An agreement was later worked out under the auspices of an emergency board appointed by Mr. Clinton, but even though a majority of the pilots voted in favor of it, many felt it had been imposed on them.

"There is a feeling that our pilots didn't have the say that they should have in the process," Mr. Overman said.

Since then, several members of a group of pilots that helped defeat a tentative contract agreement before the strike have been elected to the union's 18-member board of directors.

Technology Shares Pummel the Market

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks fell Tuesday, sending the Nasdaq Composite index to its worst drop in four months, on concern that corporate earnings won't justify January's rally.

Internet shares led the decline, falling for the sixth time in seven days. Lycos Inc., the market's 10th-best performer since the start of the year, sparked the rout after USA

implied a price of \$91 a share for Lycos.

"There's not much of an incentive to bid the stock up," said Dawn Simon, an analyst at Brown Brothers Harriman & Co., who has a "neutral" rating on the shares. As of Friday, Lycos was up 147 percent since the start of the year, on speculation it would be taken over by General Electric Co.'s NBC network.

USA Networks rose 3 11/16 to 41 1/8.

"Internet stocks in particular, and technology stocks generally came too far, too fast," said Courtney Smith, chief investment officer for Orbitz Management.

Thirteen of the 15 best performing stocks in the past 12 months were linked to the Internet. CMGI Inc., which invests in Internet startup companies, led the pack, posting a 100-fold gain. The worst of the top 15, Infosys Corp., rose 50-fold.

Yahoo!, the No. 1 Internet search directory, fell 17 1/2 to 140 1/4. Amazon.com, the biggest on-line bookseller, fell 9 1/4 to 100.

Larger companies that gained in recent weeks because of their exposure to the Internet also declined. AT&T dropped 3 3/4 to 87 1/4 and Cisco Systems, a maker of networking equipment, fell 6 to 95 15/16.

Soft-drink and beverage stocks were stronger, with Coca-Cola up 4 1/4 to 61 3/4. That suggested a favoring by investors of recession-resistant consumer stocks. But drug stocks, which also are viewed as recession-resistant but have performed well lately, were taking big hits. The Dow industrials were led lower by Merck, down 4 11/16 to 145 3/16.

Declining issues outnumbered advances by more than a 2-to-1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange.

The bond market rallied, with the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond trading at 99 4/32, up 18 3/32.

The yield fell to 5.31 percent from 5.35 percent.

Lycos fell 33 to 94 1/4 after USA

Networks valued their combination at \$2 billion, which analysts said

U.S. STOCKS

Networks, the media company headed by Barry Diller, agreed to buy the No. 3 Internet search directory in a transaction that implies a 28 percent discount for Lycos.

"The euphoria's gone," said Martin Yokosawa, a portfolio manager for Oberweis Asset Management in North Aurora, Illinois. "We went to the party and really whooped it up, and now we have a hangover."

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 158.8 points lower, at 9,133.03. Broader stock indicators were also lower, with the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index down 94.12 at 2,310.80, and the Standard & Poor's 500 index down 27.63 at 1,216.14.

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The dollar rose to 1.90 reals in late trading Tuesday from 1.85 reals on Monday. (AP, Reuters)

Brazil Tries to Avert Defaults by Its States

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BRAZILIA — Three Brazilian ministers led by Finance Minister Pedro Malan concluded a meeting with three opposition state governors here Tuesday in a bid to avert debt defaults by several states.

Both sides came out saying the talks had been valuable.

Telecommunications Minister Joao Pimenta da Veiga called the meeting "of great value" and said he would relay its contents Wednesday to President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, who could set a date to meet with the governors himself.

"It was a very positive meeting," according to the Rio de Janeiro governor, Anthony Garotinho, who is a member of the opposition Democratic Labor Party.

Investors and governments around the world are concerned that a prolonged standoff between the government and the states could hinder the country's fragile comeback from the worst part of a currency crisis that erupted four weeks ago.

A long impasse could also deepen what is expected to be Brazil's worst economic slump in three decades as the economy shrinks by between 3

percent and 7 percent this year, according to economists' projections.

Mr. Cardoso has so far refused to hear the governors' grievances but has passed on the task of defusing tension to the ministers.

Mr. Cardoso needs support from Brazil's 27 states to meet stiff budget targets and convince international investors of his resolve to slash the crippling budget deficit, now at 8 percent of gross domestic product.

He must also win over the International Monetary Fund to receive a second tranche of a \$41.5 billion bailout package pieced together late last year.

A team of IMF officials was following the developments in Brasilia while finishing up a two-week mission to review the situation in the world's eighth-largest economy following devaluation.

"We will make it clear," Communications Minister Joao Pimenta da Veiga said, that the federal government "wants a dialogue" with the states.

He told reporters, "The government does not want to be insensitive to the states' difficulties, but evidently, we cannot assume their

debt." But the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper condemned the governors' demands as "unacceptable," saying in an editorial that they had aggravated Brazil's ordeal.

The dollar rose to 1.90 reals in late trading Tuesday from 1.85 reals on Monday. (AP, Reuters)

Percentages are based on latest available figures.

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters

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Lachlan, who already
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Even so, analysts were
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The goings on going
to the top, but Windows know
the most important part of
any story to the audience.

ST RATES

11.50/11

Rates Are 'Very Low,' ECB Chief Declares

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HOHENHEIM, Germany — Euro-zone interest rates are compatible with promoting economic growth, the head of the European Central Bank, Wim Duisenberg, said Tuesday, while lower rates could endanger price stability and the new bank's inflation-fighting reputation.

"Monetary policy can do nothing more," Mr. Duisenberg, a former Dutch central bank president, said in a speech at the University of Hohenheim in southern Germany.

Mr. Duisenberg said that the bank's 3.0 percent benchmark rate was "very low compared with current international and also historical levels."

While saying the outlook for 1999 "did not point to clear upward or downward price pressures," he said real inflationary pressure "could result from climbing wage costs and looser economic policies.

Some leaders in the euro zone have called for lower interest rates to

stimulate economic growth and create jobs.

The European Central Bank holds its next policymaking meeting Feb. 18.

Separately, the bank said that the euro, the single European currency, has exposed Continental banks to increased competition, decreased profits and more mergers.

It urged the authorities responsible for maintaining financial stability to "remain vigilant" during the early life of the euro, which was introduced in 11 countries this year.

Economic turmoil around the world could slow adaptation to the new currency in the short term, the bank said in a report released Tuesday. The Asian and Russian financial crises, the protracted difficulties in the Japanese banking sector and the potential spillover effects of these crises have been — and still are — major sources of concern," it said.

(Bloomberg News, AP, Reuters)

Offer of Air France Stock Is Heavily Oversubscribed

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — Shares in Air France will be sold for 14.20 euros (\$16.08) to institutional investors and 14 euros to individual shareholders in the partial privatization of the state-owned airline, the French government announced Tuesday.

Some 1.5 million individuals have reserved shares, and their part of the issue was 10 times oversubscribed, while that for institutional investors was oversubscribed dozens of times, the government said.

To meet this demand, the number of shares on offer will be increased to 19.9 million from a planned 13.5 million.

Air France shares will start trading in Paris on Feb. 22.

The price that institutional investors will pay for Europe's third-largest airline represents a 1.4 percent premium over the price paid by individuals.

The price was at the upper end of the announced price range of 12 to 14.20 euros in the sale of a 20 percent stake in the state-owned airline.

The price values Air France at 20.5 billion francs — or \$3.13 billion — and will bring some 4 billion francs into state coffers, Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn and Transport Minister Jean-Claude Gayssot said.

The sale, which foreshadows those of European rivals Alitalia SpA of Italy and Iberia Lineas Aereas de Espana SA of Spain, comes as the airline industry braces for slower growth after three boom years.

"The cheap price was Air France's main selling point," said Gilbert Soubie, an analyst at CCF Elysee Bourse brokerage in Paris. "Even at the high end of the price range, there's very limited downside risk." (AFP, Bloomberg)

U.S. Broker Buys Firm In Spain

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MADRID — Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. said Tuesday that it would buy AB Asesores SVB SA, its largest acquisition in Europe, giving it \$4.34 billion in managed funds in Spain, one of Europe's fastest-growing markets for asset management.

The companies did not give financial details about the sale.

As the largest independent broker in Spain, AB Asesores gives Morgan Stanley Dean Witter more than \$3 billion in mutual fund assets and a 40-branched private banking network. It may also give Morgan Stanley Dean Witter a larger share of underwriting bonds and stocks for Spanish corporations.

"In AB Asesores, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter is acquiring a company with an excellent track record in terms of both profitability and sustained growth," said Richard De Martini, chairman of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

"The managed savings business is growing fast in Spain," said Emilio Sanchez Del Corral, a Spanish equity analyst at CCF Suisse First Boston in Madrid. "People are taking money out of the banks and putting them into fund management."

Spanish pension assets are forecast to grow to \$48 billion by 2000 from about \$22 billion in mid-1997, according to the latest statistics from pensions consultants William Mercer.

AB Asesores, which is not publicly traded, posted a net profit of 4.3 billion pesetas (\$29.1 million) for 1998 and has 548 employees.

The second-largest American brokerage, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter reported a net profit of \$3.3 billion for last year. It has been established in Spain for 13 years.

(AP, Bloomberg)

Ukraine to Let Currency Fall as Much as 26%

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KIEV — Ukraine said Tuesday it would allow its currency, the hryvna, to decline by as much as 26 percent against the dollar, as its central bank was running short of foreign reserves to support the currency.

The government and the central bank said the hryvna would be allowed to fluctuate between 3.40 to 6.60 to the dollar, effective immediately, instead of the current range of 2.50 to 3.50 to the dollar.

Central bank reserves have fallen to \$900,000 from \$1.05 billion on Jan. 1.

The Finance Ministry defaulted last week on an estimated \$50 million of Treasury bills held by Ukrainian banks and proposed replacing them with new, longer-term securities.

"This trading-band policy requires more reserves than a floating rate, but it's the only policy that can guarantee stability for industry," Deputy Prime Minister Semen Timko said at a news conference.

The central bank's last stated policy was that it would not allow

the hryvna to fall below 3.50 to the dollar. The new trading limit will be in effect until the end of the year.

The hryvna was close to the limit of its former range Monday, at 3.47 to the dollar.

The chairman of the Ukraine National Bank, Viktor Yushchenko, said Ukraine was pinning its hopes on help from the International Monetary Fund and other financial organizations.

"We are expecting to receive \$150 million from the World Bank and \$157 million from the IMF in the first quarter," he said.

Because of what it considered the plodding pace of reforms efforts by Ukraine, the IMF has suspended the release of installments of a \$2.2 billion loan granted last September.

Deprived of external help, the government has tried to prop up the currency by imposing exchange controls.

(Bloomberg, AFP)

Cold Shoulder on Bonds

Ukraine, which is trying to persuade domestic holders of its Treasury debt to accept its restructuring terms, has won approval of only eight of the 120 banks involved, Bloomberg News reported from Kiev. Some banks said they were considering legal action against the government.

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt	London	Paris
DAX	FTSE 100 Index	CAC 40
6003	6100	443
5500	5500	443
5000	5200	443
4500	4500	443
4000	4000	443
3500	3500	443
S O N D J F	S O N D J F	S O N D J F
1998 1999	1998 1999	1998 1999
Exchange	Index	Index
		Tuesday Close
		Prev. Close Change
Amsterdam	AEX	518.06 524.24 -1.93
Brussels	BEL-20	3,385.19 3,446.17 -1.77
Frankfurt	DAX	4,904.35 5,037.27 -2.44
Copenhagen	Stock Market	622.84 624.97 -0.34
Helsinki	HEX General	5,790.25 5,936.77 -2.63
Oslo	OBX	542.17 553.32 -2.02
London	FTSE 100	5,779.80 5,834.30 -0.94
Madrid	Stock Exchange	846.21 853.11 -1.33
Milan	MIBTEL	2,239.8 2,294.2 -2.59
Paris	CAC 40	4,038.49 4,154.02 -2.73
Stockholm	SX 16	3,898.39 4,052.96 -2.07
Vienna	ATX	1,117.23 1,110.64 +0.59
Zurich	SPI	4,393.30 4,456.04 -2.73

Source: Telexius

In U.S. dollars

* = in U.S. dollars

B shares only, quoted in Hong Kong dollars.

B shares

Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close

The 2,300 most traded stocks of the day.
Uniformwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.

13 Month High/Low	Stock	Div Yld	PE	S&P 100 High/Low			Low/Last	Chg%
				High	Low	Chg		
572	3416 Fluor	.50	2.3	3076	2500	-576	35	+1%
276	1264 Ford Credit	.12	12.5	1225	2250	-1025	2240	+1%
274	194 Ford Recovery	.88	5.12	512	250	-262	250	+1%
274	14 Ford Recovery	.88	26.74	214	100	-114	194	+1%
445	3416 Ford Fund	1.44	2.2	202014	15000	-52014	5752	+1%
285	2626 Ford Motor Co	1.25	7.9	96	2800	-2704	2800	+1%
255	1516 Ford Motor Co	.39	1.9	152	150	-2	152	+1%
304	1736 Ford Motor Co A	.16	7.7	242	2270	-2248	2248	+1%
174	516 Ford Motor Co B	.14	7.4	242	2270	-2248	2248	+1%
184	1444 Ford Motor Co D	1.04	5.4	152	150	-2	152	+1%
216	2626 Ford Motor Co F	.50	1.9	152	150	-2	152	+1%
594	816 Ford Motor Co H	.72	8.3	152	150	-2	152	+1%
476	2544 FordMotorCo	.58	2.8	19	2200	-2204	3114	+1%
324	114 FordMotorCoH	.84	7.0	60	4461	-599	9	+1%
374	516 FordMstn	.59	1.9	152	150	-2	152	+1%
759	15 FordMstn H	.59	1.9	152	150	-2	152	+1%
26	1946 FordEngr	.16	1.9	-11629	2671	-2397	2397	+1%
17	74 FordEngr	.16	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
159	1046 FordEngr	1.62	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
299	4076 FordEngr Int'l	1.11	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
254	1444 FordEngr Int'l	1.64	9.0	524	214	-310	194	+1%
570	2544 FordEngr Int'l A	2.21	1.9	1912000	3400	-1896000	3400	+1%
109	876 FordEngr Int'l B	.69	0.8	524	214	-310	194	+1%
454	2544 FordEngr Int'l C	.69	0.8	524	214	-310	194	+1%
654	2016 FordEngr Int'l D	.48	0.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
544	516 FordEngr Int'l E	.59	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
505	4764 FordEngr Int'l F	2.563	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
237	976 FordEngr Int'l G	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
216	976 FordEngr Int'l H	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
216	976 FordEngr Int'l I	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l J	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l K	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l L	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l M	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l N	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l O	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
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10	576 FordEngr Int'l Q	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l R	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l S	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
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10	576 FordEngr Int'l U	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l V	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l W	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l X	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l Y	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l Z	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l AA	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l BB	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l CC	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l DD	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l EE	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
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10	576 FordEngr Int'l GG	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l HH	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l II	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
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10	576 FordEngr Int'l RR	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
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10	576 FordEngr Int'l XX	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l YY	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l ZZ	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
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10	576 FordEngr Int'l VV'''	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l WW'''	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	+1%
10	576 FordEngr Int'l XX'''	1.6	1.9	524	214	-310	194	

Continued on Page 15

NASDAQ

Tuesday's 4 P.M.
be 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

In terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

NYSE

Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close
(Continued)

AMEX

Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close
The 150 most traded stocks of the day,
up to the closing on Wall Street.

INTERNATIONAL INVESTING

A Cyberspace Baron With No 'Bubble' Fears

By Jeannine Rosenberg
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — As investment pundits warn about an Internet bubble and Bill Gates of Microsoft Corp. wonders where the mania for Internet stocks will end, Michael Egan is quietly keeping his chips on the virtual table.

Mr. Egan, 38, knows something about building companies. He made a fortune by turning around the Alamo rental-car company and selling it to REPRO Industries Inc. in 1997 for \$625 million, getting about \$587 million for his stake.

Then he started an investment company, Dancing Bear Investments, and looked for promising businesses.

About that time, he was becoming infatuated with cyberspace. "I started doing a lot of business electronically with the airline reservation systems and the Internet," he said. "It was quite apparent that it was going to be the major economic revolution of the world since maybe the printing press or currency."

But Mr. Egan was not about to invest in a company just because it had "dot-com" in its name. He was looking for a startup nobody else had heard of and true grit in the

people in charge. "They had to have a high, high work ethic," he said. "They had to be able to suffer a blow."

Mr. Egan, an alumnus of Cornell University, mentioned to his president one day that he was looking for a "media play on the Net." Perhaps, he was told, he should check out a company called Theglobe.com that a couple of recent graduates, Todd Krizelman and Stephan Paternot, had started while still in college.

Theglobe.com calls itself an Internet "community" that offers its users entertainment, information and shopping opportunities. Mr. Egan liked the concept and flew to Ithaca, New York, to have lunch with the two men. After five hours of talks, he made it clear he wanted to buy into their venture.

In February 1997, he dispatched Edward Cespedes, a Dancing Bear executive, for follow-up talks. "Ed was told that he couldn't leave the office until the negotiation was done," said Mr. Krizelman, now 25, one year older than his partner. "He lived on our couches in the office and shared meal after meal of Chinese food with us." Six months later, Egan paid \$20 million for a 51 percent stake in the company.

The payoff came Nov. 13. In its first day of trading, the stock of Theglobe.com rocketed 606 percent, from \$9 to \$63.50, the biggest first-day run-up of any initial public offering. "It was an adrenaline day if there ever was one," Mr. Egan said. His stake of about 6 million shares is now worth \$382 million.

Mr. Egan has made other smart investments, notably a controlling stake in Nantucket Nectars, a Massachusetts-based juice maker, that he sold last year to Ocean Spray Cranberries Inc. for an undisclosed profit. Even for this low-tech venture, his enthusiasm was boundless.

Tom First, one of the founders, recalled a conversation on a private jet. "He starts talking about how the company would be a \$200 million company within five years, while I'm concerned that on our one van in Boston, the shocks were blown out."

Mr. Egan has used some of his wealth to lead the life of a country squire, building a \$12 million mansion in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for temporary shelter while he renovated his main spread nearby, and assembling a Nantucket vacation compound of 15 houses, a dining hall, a movie house and a baseball diamond for a family that includes

five children and three grandchildren.

But his fears after selling Alamo — that he would "dry up and blow away" — proved groundless.

As a young man, Mr. Egan at first pursued a career in tourism. But a "humbling" job in food service, followed by a low-paying stint in academia, cooled that ambition, and he jumped at the chance to run an old friend's family business.

Sitting in the cluttered office of Theglobe.com recently, he looked more like an artist than an investor with his snowy white hair, black pullover sweater and black trousers. But he talked like an investor as he dismissed fears about an internet stock bubble.

"There's a very good reason a lot of capital is pouring into the Internet," he said. "Fifty million or 100 million databases being joined with 3 billion users."

In other recent deals, Mr. Egan bought and sold Autobytel Inc. and bought a majority stake in Interteltravel, a privately held Internet travel company.

He plans to take public his own startup, Certified Vacations, a travel company, at the end of this year. And Theglobe.com has announced its first acquisition, the expected purchase of



The New York Times
Michael Egan's big media play was bankrolling Theglobe.com.

Azzazz.com, an Internet retailer.

What drives Mr. Egan? He says he wants to help young entrepreneurs make their way. The other day, he said, he had breakfast with the two founders of Nantucket Nectars, both in their 30s. "You see the enthusiasm for life in their eyes and hear it in their voices," he said. "Maybe I'm trying to recapture my youth."

Monitor Day Trading, NASD Urges Brokers

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The head of Wall Street's self-policing group has asked brokerage firms to report any problems arising from day trading.

Frank Zarb, the chairman and chief executive of the National Association of Securities Dealers, which operates the Nasdaq Stock Market, said in a letter to Association members that "investors must be made to understand what they are getting into."

Mr. Zarb noted the "sometimes frenetic" electronic stock trading of recent weeks and the rising number of amateur day traders — who he said "may not be able to absorb the risk" when they are extended credit to trade.

Unless trading firms respond appropriately, Mr. Zarb warned, "we increase investor risk, with some losing savings that they cannot afford to lose."

Day trading has attracted a small but growing breed of investors — estimated to number a few thousand nationwide — many of whom have abandoned their regular jobs for the prospect of quick riches. Day traders seek stocks solely for sharp price swings, buying and selling them quickly to capitalize on the short-term movement in price.

But securities regulators have expressed concern that some day-trading companies, which sell training courses and specialized software and provide computer work space to investors, could be misleading them about potential profits and causing them to get in over their heads. State regulators have stepped up their scrutiny of day-trading firms and a handful, particularly in Massachusetts, have filed fraud charges against them.

The Electronic Traders Association, which represents day-trading companies, said last week it was concerned that people could be getting involved without "a clear understanding of the effort required to become successful and the potential risks."

Suddenly, Analysts Decide U.S. Earnings Won't Be So Bad

By Richard A. Opped Jr.
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Now that U.S. fourth-quarter earnings are mostly in the books, it is clear that the worst fears about last summer's emerging-markets panic did not pan out. Indeed, it suddenly seems that many naysaying forecasters are painting a far brighter earnings landscape for 1999.

At Merrill Lynch & Co., economists recently raised their forecasts for earnings growth of the companies in the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index to 3.5 percent in 1999, in contrast to a prediction made in mid-December of a 5 percent drop — a

swing of 8.5 percentage points in less than two months.

The change resulted from "continued strength in the economy and less pressure on profit margins, which is the result of continued restructuring," said Gerald Cohen, a senior economist at Merrill Lynch.

The company is far from alone in its optimism. "I'm very bullish on corporate earnings," said Byron Wien, U.S. strategist at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. "The economy has a lot of momentum, and I'm optimistic earnings are going to exceed expectations."

Among strategists, the average estimate for earnings growth is 4.1 percent for companies in the S&P

500, compared with 0.2 percent in 1998, according to IBES International, a research company. Among industries in the index, the engines appear most likely to be technology, health care and perhaps energy — a huge 1998 loser that many analysts see stabilizing in 1999.

That is good news for investors, especially with the stock market at record levels and valuations. In the absence of lower interest rates, better profits are probably the best catalyst for more market gains.

Some strategists suggest that the factors that hurt earnings in last year's third quarter — the first time in seven years that profits of American corporations had fallen — have

proved short-lived. Edward Kerschner, a PaineWebber Group strategist who says he expects profit growth of 5 percent to 8 percent in 1999, contends that the poor third quarter resulted from several coincidental factors, including the market plunge in August, the General Motors Corp. strike and a steep drop in oil earnings.

Yes, emerging markets still grieve. But in the case of GM, the company has already stunned industry analysts by suggesting last month that its earnings could top \$10 a share in 1999 if the company met aggressive financial and production targets. And many analysts do not think oil prices can fall much

below their current \$12 level.

Why are analysts optimistic?

In technology, they see continuing strong sales of personal computers, software and semiconductors. Health care, meanwhile, is getting help from continued good results at pharmaceutical companies, which have produced an array of new drugs.

Still, strategists say several sectors could disappoint this year, particularly two that can suffer in periods of slow growth: basic materials and commodity companies and capital-equipment suppliers such as Case Corp., Deere & Co. and Caterpillar Inc.

"That's where the real vulnerability is," said Chuck Hill, director of research at First Call in Boston.

Very briefly:

- The heavy metal band Iron Maiden became the latest musical act to hit Wall Street with the closing this week of a \$30 million bond offering backed by future royalties from hits such as "Bring Your Daughter to the Slaughter."
- India's passion for software stocks is running so wild that some speculators are said to have snapped up shares in an underwear manufacturer named Softwear.
- A series of corporate financial fiascoes has drawn the attention of U.S. stock-market regulators, who have issued proposals to companies to increase the power and independence of their audit committees.
- Birkert & Fleckenstein AG, a German brokerage specializing in derivatives, plans to sell 312,400 shares next month for funds to invest in its on-line services.
- Michael Lind and Christina Richardson, who managed about \$150 million in assets for the family of the Borders Group Inc. co-founder Louis Borders, have set up a firm, Meritage Advisors LLC, aimed at wealthy investors.

Reuters, AP, Bloomberg

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Herald Tribune

INTERNATIONAL

SPORTS

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1999

WORLD ROUNDUP

Dutch Crown Prince Puts IOC on Hold

OLYMPICS Crown Prince Willem Alexander of the Netherlands has suspended his involvement with the International Olympic Committee. Wim Kok, the Dutch prime minister, said Tuesday that Willem Alexander would suspend his IOC activities at least until the IOC considers corruption allegations. The IOC is to meet March 17 and 18 to discuss the allegations. None of the allegations involve the prince, who was elected to the committee during the Winter Olympics last year. He was due to take up his post in June. (AP)

Dominicans Win Series

BASEBALL David Ortiz, a Minnesota Twins rookie, hit a two-run double in the bottom of the 12th inning Monday as the Dominican Republic beat Puerto Rico in a one-game playoff to win its third straight Caribbean Series championship. Wil Cordero hit a tying home run in the ninth for Puerto Rico, and teammate Ferdinand Rodriguez homered in the top of the 12th for a 5-4 lead. (AP)

NBA Fines Rude Barkley

BASKETBALL Charles Barkley, the Houston forward, was fined \$5,000, and Steve Smith of Atlanta and Kendall Gill of New Jersey were fined \$2,500 each by the NBA.

Barkley was fined Monday for "directing obscene language toward fans" as the Rockets lost to the Lakers on Friday.

Smith and Gill were fined for fighting after the Hawks beat the Nets on Saturday. (AP)

Falcons Receiver Charged

FOOTBALL Eight days after playing in the Super Bowl, Tony Martin, an Atlanta Falcons receiver, was charged in federal court in Miami on Monday with money-laundering and conspiracy stemming from his friendship with Rickey Brownlee, a convicted drug dealer. Martin, 33, is not accused of involvement in Brownlee's drug business. Prosecutors said Martin wrote checks to lease luxury cars and pay legal fees for Brownlee because his lawyers wouldn't take cash. (AP)

Gilding the Rugby Lily

RUGBY UNION South African Rugby authorities denied Tuesday that they had succumbed to political pressure after all four of its entrants in the Super 12 competition picked three nonwhites in their squads. Last year, the teams picked only two nonwhite players between them for the Southern Hemisphere tournament.

The governing African National Congress has denounced the "lily white" makeup of rugby, and talked of introducing racial quotas in team selection.

Rian Oberholzer, South African rugby's chief executive, said he met with the provincial squad coaches and requested, but did not demand, that they include at least three nonwhite players. (Reuters)

Ski Event Frozen Out

BIATHLON It is so cold in Finland that even winter sports have been canceled. The cold spell gripping Finland prevented the start of the world biathlon championships in Kontiolahti for the fourth successive day on Tuesday. In the morning, the temperature was at minus 36 centigrade (minus 33 Fahrenheit) and minus 26 (minus 15) on the shooting range. The competition limit is set at minus 20 (minus 4). (AP, Reuters)



TENNIS IN THE DESERT — Tim Henman of Britain returning a ball from Wayne Black of Zimbabwe on Tuesday in their first-round match at the Dubai Open Tennis Tournament. Henman won, 6-0, 6-4. In other first-round action, Thomas Muster beat Stephane Huet, 6-4, 6-2; Francisco Clavet downed Wayne Ferreira, a former Dubai champion, 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (13-11); and Nicholas Kiefer beat Nicholas Escudé, 6-3, 6-2.

Competing Masters Tug Soccer Players

Vantage Point/ROB HUGHES

LONDON — In sports, where time is fleeting, players are torn between two masters. Make that three.

There is the call a country has on its finest. There is the demand that clubs, which pay over a few peak seasons the wealth that must ease these performers through middle to old age. There is the need, sometimes, for players also to be family men.

Put yourselves into the uniforms of the de Boer twins and half a dozen other Dutch players. On Wednesday they play in the orange shirts of their homeland. On Sunday, because those same individuals form a colony within the Barcelona team, they change to red and blue.

The pressure is on. Frank Rijkaard, the Dutch coach, offers no soft option. Any-one picks must give his all, even in a friendly international, or he will not be chosen again. Rijkaard knows the tug of war between club and country because not many moons ago he was paid millions by AC Milan and at the same time was crucial to the Dutch national team.

One match at a time is the cliché. Even that is compromised. When the Barcelona play against Portugal, they will have to stop Luis Figo. He is a mainspring of Portuguese hopes and a Barcelona hero. Goalkeeper Vito Baia is a veteran Portuguese stalwart and reserve to another Dutchman, Ruud Hesp, at Camp Nou.

It gets more complicated. Seedorf is a Dutchman on Wednesday, and an opponent in Real Madrid white on Sunday. Heaven help him or spare the insinuations should Seedorf collide with Figo, resulting in the Portugal star's missing the big game at Camp Nou.

Curiouser and curiouser is the encounter on Wednesday. It is a Portuguese "home" match, but, rather than the Stadium of Light or any of the big stadiums in Portugal, the Portuguese soccer authorities chose to play this prestige match against the world's third best team in Paris — at Parc des Princes.

Why? Because there are reportedly 1 million Portuguese living in or around the French capital, and the Portuguese soccer body likes to reward its overseas fans.

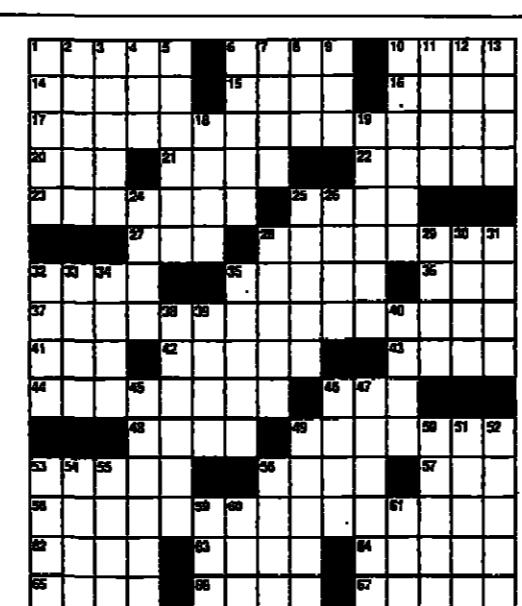
Nevertheless, Wednesday in Paris is a strange time and place for the meeting. Not just because Portugal is a candidate to host the 2004 European Championships and is sacrificing an opportunity to show how it stages big events. Not just because the Dutch and a few of the Portuguese players have Sunday on their minds. But because Wednesday is also the date on which Les Bleus, the French World Cup winners, play a significant match of their own — against England.

Soccer has never meant as much to the French as it does now. The squad has remained unbeaten since that fantastic night in July when it trounced Brazil in the coach on the field.

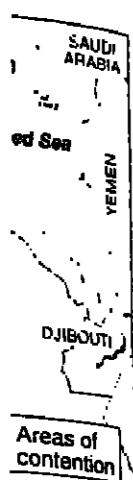
The atmosphere around Camp Nou is a febrile. They don't approve of Louis van Gaal, the Dutch trainer, bringing in so many Dutch players to the exclusion of Catalans or even Spaniards. The polls showed before Christmas that 95 percent of Barcelona's 120,000-plus club members wanted van Gaal out. The white handkerchiefs waived unmercifully, and still flutter even though Barcelona has won its last seven league games.

Forget van Gaal, say the fans, the team is winning because Josep Guardiola, the one individual whom Catalans can really call their own, is back. He was a ball boy at Camp Nou 13 years ago, he has battled through 320 days of injury, and now he is not only the catalyst but effectively the coach on the field.

CROSSWORD



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Hill Piles Up 46 Points As Pistons Make It 3-0

The Associated Press

Three games into the season, Kobe Bryant is playing like the league's next superstar. Bryant isn't alone, though, and his chief rival, Grant Hill, put up a Jordanesque point total Monday night while also keeping the Detroit Pistons unbeaten.

Hill scored a career-high 46 points, including two crucial free throws after a

Television replay seemed to confirm Howard's version. Hill sank both shots for a 104-103 lead.

Jerry Stackhouse scored 29 points for the Pistons. He and Hill were the only Detroit players in double figures.

Lakers 80, Spurs 75 In San Antonio, Shaquille O'Neal had 26 points and 13 rebounds and helped hold David Robinson to 11 points as Los Angeles handed the Spurs their first loss of the season.

After seeing that San Antonio was picked ahead of the Lakers in some preseasn publications, O'Neal voiced his displeasure toward Robinson while also calling Tim Duncan "too light."

"I'm known for backing up what I say, and you all know I come out to play every night," O'Neal said. "We realized that they were going to come out strong after reading my statement. I do that on purpose to get pumped up."

Rockets 90, Nuggets 80 Scottie Pippen had 24 points and 13 rebounds in his home debut and Charles Barkley continued his fast start for Houston with 15 points and 19 rebounds.

Houston's threesome of Barkley, Hakeem Olajuwon and Pippen shot a collective 74 percent from the field in a take-charge first half that ended with Houston ahead by 22.

Hornets 94, Heat 84 In Charlotte, J.R. Reid made several key plays in the final 72 seconds, David Wesley had 18 points and 12 assists and Chuck Person and Bobby Phills had 16 points apiece for the Hornets, who came back from a 15-point, third-quarter deficit.

Miami was without its leading scorer, Howard threw up his hands in disbelief. "I went out there and just tried to first deny him from catching the ball, like I'd been doing all game," he said.

"He was totally defenseless, fell out of bounds, and the foul was called. I feel I played good defense on him."

NBA Draws Large Audiences For Lockout-Delayed Tip Off

Courtesy of Our Staff From Dispatchers

NEW YORK — The National Basketball Association appeared to be in trouble when Michael Jordan retired after the season started three months late. But attendance was strong, and ratings actually improved on the season's first weekend.

Overnight ratings for the Sunday afternoon doubleheader on NBC, the U.S. television network, were 5.8 — up from the network's first telecast in 1998, which posted a 5.7 rating.

Turner Sports enjoyed similar success with its two games Friday night on TNT, its U.S. cable television station.

The first game, New York Knicks at Orlando Magic, posted a 2.5 national rating, while the Houston Rockets-Los Angeles Lakers matchup received a 3.1 for an overall average of 2.8.

That was a 65 percent jump from Turner's average last season.

"People were predicting some dire results for NBA ratings," said Kevin O'Malley, Turner's senior vice president of programming. "It's hard to predict going forward, but this is definitely a great start for us."

At NBC, there was encouragement and caution. "It's a good start, but everybody here and in the NBA knows that it's just that — a start," said Ed Markey, a network spokesman. "We know we still have a lot of work to do to regain the fans and keep the interest."

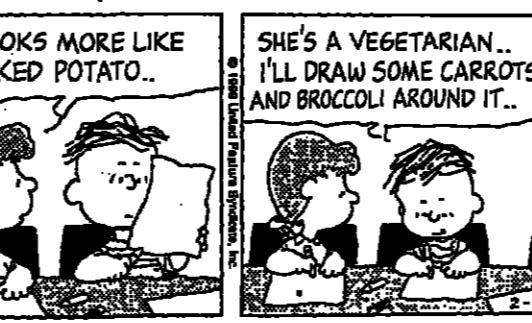
Fans were itching to see the NBA, Markey added. "They had a curiosity to see different players on new teams, and there are more teams whose fans feel they have a legitimate shot at a championship."

An average of 17,192 fans attended the NBA's 12 games Friday night, roughly 700 fewer per arena than last season.

(W.P. AP)

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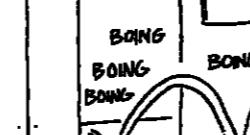
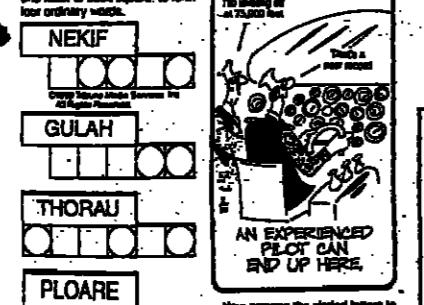


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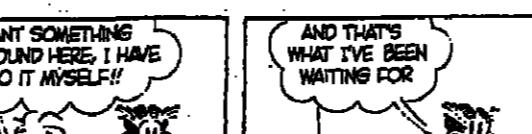
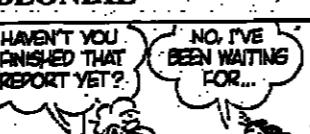
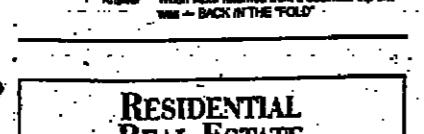
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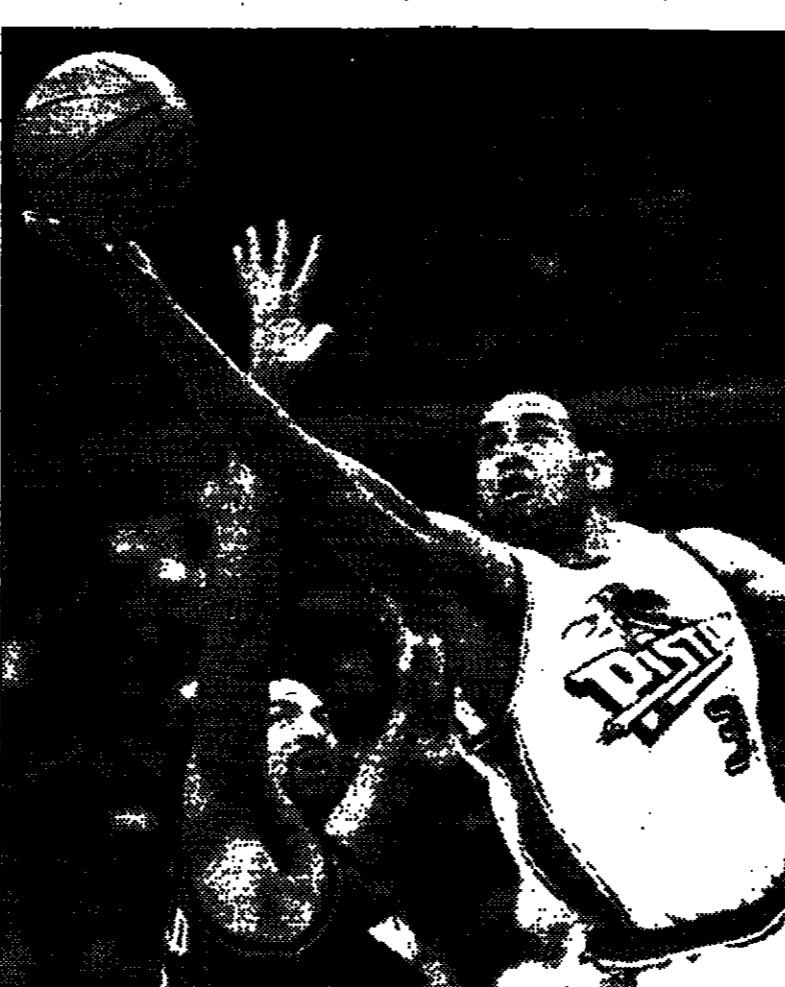
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SPORTS

Jail Might Not Keep Tyson From Training

Door Could Open in 60 Days for Daytime 'Job'

By Katherine Shaver
Washington Post Service

serving out the Montgomery jail sentence now rather than contesting it.

A District Court official said Tyson's Rockville, Maryland, attorney, Paul Kemp, "started the paperwork" on an appeal by requesting the proper form Monday but never completed it.

In addition to continuing his training, lawyers said, Tyson could use his time in a Montgomery County detention facility — as little as seven months with good behavior — to show the Indiana judge that he is being duly punished.

George Walker, Tyson's Indiana probation officer, said he had not decided what to do about Tyson's probation status. But he suggested that the Maryland sentence would not automatically lead to a probation violation hearing in Indiana. Tyson would have to be returned to Indiana for such a hearing before he could be returned to prison for his 1992 rape conviction there, Walker said.

"Somewhere along the way, we might get everyone together and say, 'Hey, do we really want a big circus in town to do something with him, or can we do something without a hearing and save a lot of taxpayer money?'" Walker said. "There are different ways of working on it."

Tyson's probation in Indiana runs out next month.

If he stays in jail in Maryland, it might not be much longer before Tyson is back in the ring — at least to train. Officials said that after serving 60 days in the Montgomery County jail, he could be transferred to the county's Pre-Release Center, which he would be required to leave during the day to work.

In Tyson's case, that could mean boxing, said Russ Hamill, acting director of the Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation. Like any inmate at the center, which is designed to rehabilitate inmates and help them re-enter society, Tyson would be required to work during the day in his chosen profession, Hamill said.

"Since boxing is his employment and his job, we'd have to verify where he is and that he remained drug- and alcohol-free," Hamill said.

Tyson's workplace, Hamill said, could be a gym. Hamill also said that, with a judge's permission, Tyson might be able to leave the state to fight, just as other inmates can ask to travel for their work.

"We're talking about a person who appears to know only one profession, in his life, and he has a very limited opportunity to practice that trade," said John Kudel, a Maryland lawyer. "I think that has to be considered along with his freedom. There's got to be a very good reason why he has not filed the appeal today. Something has got to be in the works."

Grant Hill, 33, beating Juwan Howard of Washington to score a basket.

Jamal Mashburn, who sat out to rest a deep thigh bruise.

Magic 107, Celtics 80 In Orlando, Penny Hardaway had 28 points, eight rebounds, and six assists in perhaps his strongest all-around performance since knee and calf injuries forced him out of the lineup for 63 games last season.

"That's the best I've seen Penny play in two years," said Chuck Daly, the Orlando coach.

Pacers 96, Cavaliers 89 Reggie Miller

scored 28 points, Chris Mullin had 22 and the two made big threes in the second half as Indiana spoiled Cleveland's home opener. Mullin took control of the game after halftime by scoring 10 points in the third and 10 in the fourth.

Trail Blazers 95, Grizzlies 76 Arvydas Sabonis scored 10 of his 24 points in a lopsided third quarter as Portland spoiled Vancouver's home opener.

Jim Jackson added 17 points for the Trail Blazers.

Panthers Sign Bure for 5 Years

The Panthers signed Pavel Bure to a five-year contract extension with an option for a sixth year. The Associated Press reported from Sunrise, Florida.

Bure, 27, a high-scoring Russian winger, will remain under contract through at least the 2003-04 season.

Financial terms were not disclosed, but sources put the deal at \$47.5 million over five years with an option year at \$10.5 million.

He started the season with the Vancouver Canucks but refused to play.

Lawyers familiar with the case said

Tyson's attorneys may be weighing the possibility that he would have a better chance of saving his boxing career by

winning Florida. Pierre Turgeon added his 17th goal and two assists for the Blues.

Blues 5, Panthers 4 In Calgary, the Flames ended a four-game winless streak as Phil Housley and Theoren Fleury scored first-period goals and Fred Brathwaite made 35 saves.

Doug Weight scored his first goal of the season for Edmonton, which outshot the Flames, 36-26, but lost for just the third time in its last 10 games.

Sharks 5, Panthers 4 Pavol Demitra scored twice, including the go-ahead goal in the third period, as St. Louis came from behind in the third period to

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win in Florida. Pierre Turgeon added his 17th goal and two assists for the Blues.

POSTCARD

Marketing George

By William L. Hamilton
New York Times Service

MOUNT VERNON, Vir-ginia — He is the other president with a problem.

"I know that he was one of the first presidents," Lon Beard, 10, said of George Washington during a visit to his 18th-century estate. Lon's sister, Coral Krebs, 28, added, "He's on the dollar bill."

Poverty is a rough game. After more than 200 years in the public eye, George Washington has been boiled down to a fact and some change.

But the first president has his first-ever media and marketing team. And 1999 is a campaign year: the year Washington goes for the hearts of his countrymen.

Troubled by stagnating attendance and a rocky recognition factor, especially among schoolchildren, the directors of Mount Vernon, the capital of Washington's legacy, have inaugurated a \$3 million public relations campaign to reposition him as a national figure with what the spinmasters might call "heat."

"We were looking for something with a lot of sizzle," said Michael Quinn, one of the campaign men. "He had great name recognition, but not a real high quotient of excitement. Dull, boring. He was the first president. Of course, so what?"

The campaign is "Only in 1999," the name for a year of celebration tagged to the bicentennial of Washington's death on Dec. 14, 1799.

In what scholars are afraid is a crowd-pleasing shift from education to entertainment at historic sites, Mount Vernon's advance guard has sent out 2,000 press kits and contacted 50,000 communities to encourage festivities that range from planting trees to

tolling bells. Two new Web sites and three new books, including his diaries, will also help to establish Washington as First Guy: architect, environmentalist, entrepreneur, fashion plate, both flawed and fascinating. Robert Redford wants to make the movie.

Washington is already on the road with a blockbuster show. "Treasures From Mount Vernon," parked at the New York Historical Society until Feb. 22, has ivory teeth, if not his smile, have been a great photo op.

□

On Feb. 15, Presidents' Day, the day he must share with Lincoln, he will be reintroduced at his home by the Potomac River. Mount Vernon has added a new museum and refurbished the mansion with 100 objects owned by Washington. A new "Death and Funeral Procession Tour" will provide black armbands for visitors. The master bedroom will be set up as the death scene, complete with blood-staining equipment used by physicians who tried to save him from his sudden cold.

"Nearly a third of his blood was drained," said Sally McDonough, manager of media relations at Mount Vernon. "That took us two days to figure out." There was discussion of piping in bad smells, but consideration of the idea was put on hold because staff historians could not agree on what would be authentic to the period.

The celebration will be capped by a televised 18th-century state funeral on Dec. 18. "We're going to try to make it feel like the Diana funeral," said Melissa Groppe, manager of special events, who is handling the hand-crafted coffin and costumed cortège.

Willy the failed salesman and willful sui-

By Michiko Kakutani
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A half century after its premiere, "Death of a Salesman" has become an American classic — a perennial produced around the world, from Baltimore to Beijing, and routinely taught in high-school English classes and mounted in community theaters. The play has become an institution, part of the accepted theater canon, and today even boasts its own Web site (www.deathofsalesman.com), where, in an ironic twist on its central theme, you will be able to purchase souvenirs.

With the opening Wednesday of the Goodman Theater's production of "Salesman" at the Eugene O'Neill Theater on Broadway — 50 years to the day from the play's 1947 world premiere — many of the debates that attended the original opening have long since become obsolete. We no longer question whether a play about a little man (a "low-man," as opposed to a king or powerful ruler) can be called a tragedy, just as we no longer question the ethnicity of the play's hero, the Jewishness or non-Jewishness of his location.

At the same time, however, other debates persist. While "Salesman" has continued to enjoy enormous popular success, both the play and its author have maintained a less than stellar reputation among many high-brow critics. "Salesman" has been debunked as a didactic commentary on the bankruptcy of the American dream of success, while Arthur Miller has been dismissed as an epigone of Ibsenism, a preachy, pomposus and portentious writer who belongs to a middlebrow past.

In retrospect, it is an overly simplistic judgment — especially when it comes to "Salesman," Miller's most famous, most enduring and in many ways most anomalous play.

Ironically enough, Miller's own ponderous pronouncements have tended to reinforce the perception of his work as an outmoded form of social realism. In one 1950 essay, he argued that "Death of a Salesman" — which chronicles the last day in the life of a salesman named Willy Loman, who has lost his job and, he fears, the love of his son Biff — is "the tragedy of a man who did believe that he alone was not meeting the qualifications laid down for mankind by those clean-shaven frontiersmen who inhabit the peaks of broadcasting and advertising offices."

Willy the failed salesman and willful sui-



Arthur Miller believes works of art can "change the consciousness of people."

cide. Miller suggested in his own autobiography, represents the fate of a true believer in America's false dream of success: "This pseudo life that thought to touch the clouds by standing on top of a refrigerator, waving a paid-up mortgage at the moon, victorious at last." His single-minded pursuit of success has blinded him to the love of his own family, robbed him of his sense of self and left him to subsist on a diet of illusions.

In contrast to Eugene O'Neill, who declared that he was "interested only in the relation of man and God," Miller has implied that the tragedy in his own work springs from the relation between man and his environment, between man and the conditions that suppress him and pervert "the flowing out of his love and creative instinct."

The playwright's own unhappy experiences during the Depression and the 1950s, when he was convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to name names before the House Un-American Activities Committee, persuaded him, he has said, that politics "determines the exteriors of your personality." He remained convinced, he once stated, that all serious plays ultimately ad-

dress a single question: "How may a man make of the outside world a home?"

Truly great work, he said in a 1958 interview, is "that work which will show at one and the same time the power and force of the human will working with and against the force of society upon it."

Yet in Robert Falls's darkly hued new staging from Chicago, "Death of a Salesman" seems less a social drama than a fierce portrait of a father and son, caught in a fatal embrace of love and resentment and guilt.

And Brian Dennehy's Willy Loman seems less a man, in Miller's words, who "embodies in himself some of the most terrible conflicts running through the streets of America today" than a perpetual adolescent caught in the dizzying gap between his art and his own expectations. This Willy Loman, like Dustin Hoffman's in 1984 on Broadway, may not be a tragic figure, but he is a touching one, subsisting on past memory and future hope. His dilemmas are more psychological than sociological, more existential than environmental.

The play's structure, too, seems a far cry from the rough-hewn carpentry often as-

sociated with Miller's work. There is a dreamlike quality to "Salesman," an expressionistic invocation of shifting moods and time frames.

Certainly "Salesman" has its problems: a paint-by-numbers Freudianism, a conveniently withheld secret that overshadows the second act, and supporting characters who are little more than cardboard cutouts.

These flaws, however, are subsumed by the play's visceral and deeply affecting portrait of father and son. The play limns Willy's fears of losing Biff's love and his own longings for immortality — his desire not just to be liked, but to be well liked — and it immerses the audience in Willy's conflicted, contradictory state of mind.

The play was constructed on the premise that Willy, in his growing panic and confusion, sees time not as a continuum but as a simultaneity of moments past and present. In the play's confessional structure, current anxieties fade into remembered guilt, and dreams and regrets blur and overlap.

In recent years, the most successful productions of Miller's plays have played down the political, polemic aspects to reveal their psychological subtext, current bedrock emotions of sexual passion and familial love, betrayal and guilt that lurk beneath the sociology.

Their success underscores the current renaissance that Miller has been enjoying — not just in Britain, where his work has found a ready audience among theatergoers reared on politically committed plays writing, but also in the United States, where the Signature Theater Company recently completed a year-long retrospective of his plays in New York.

What accounts for Miller's continuing appeal? Perhaps some of the very aspects of his work that seem so old-fashioned — his moral seriousness and fondness for mythic intonations — are refreshing anomalies in this age of relentless irony and cynicism.

In a day when the avant-garde has insistently purveyed a vision of a fractured world, Miller's assumption that "life has meaning" appeals to our vestigial belief that the dots can be connected, that a pattern can be found in the carpet. In a day when the arts are increasingly becoming a form of entertainment, his efforts to address the large questions of right and wrong suggest that the theater can still provide a venue for intellectual debate.

Indeed, his plays attest to his own belief that works of art can "change the consciousness of people and their estimate of who they are and what they stand for."

PEOPLE

THE OPERA diva Maria Callas claimed to have continued an "amorous friendship" with Aristotle Onassis after he married Jacqueline Kennedy, according to the March issue of *Vanity Fair*. "He did not marry for love," she was quoted as saying. "It was more a marriage of business convenience." The article is based on interviews with Callas from 1947 to her death in 1977. The excerpted quotes are from the book "Maria Callas: Sacred Monster," by Stelios Galatopoulos, to be published in March.

□ The cartoonist Charles Schulz said he wasn't prepared for a multi-ethnic Broadway revival of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," but was willing to give it a shot. The play includes a piano-playing Schroeder who is black and an Asian Linus, still trailing his blanket. Schulz told the Press Democrat of Santa Rosa, California, in an interview published Sunday, that he was not racist — he was only concerned about others tinkering with the "Peanuts" gang he still

owns. If people are "willing to accept that Lucy's leaning on the piano playing left to a black Schroeder, all right, let's see how it goes," Schulz said. The production opened Thursday to mixed reviews.

□ Tammy Wynette's doctor says there is no reason to suspect that the country music superstar died from anything other than a blood clot. Willis Marsh of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center responded Monday to a campaign by three of Wynette's daughters to exhume their mother's body for an investigation into the cause of her death in April. Wynette was 55 when she died.

□ Rod Stewart is hoping for a reconciliation with his wife of eight years, Rachel Hunter. But "it's all too early to tell," he said in USA Today on Monday. "I'm not holding my breath. I'm moving on with my life, and she is moving on with hers. We'll see what happens." The couple, who have two children aged 4 and 6, separated in January.

"Shakespeare" Tops Oscar Nominations

LOS ANGELES — The romantic comedy "Shakespeare in Love" snared 13 Oscar nominations Tuesday, gearing up to do battle for best picture of 1998 with the World War II epic "Saving Private Ryan," with 11 nominations. "Life Is Beautiful," "Elizabeth," and "The Thin Red Line."

John Madden was nominated as best director for "Shakespeare," as was Steven Spielberg for "Ryan," Peter Weir for "The Truman Show," the Italian Roberto Benigni for "Life Is Beautiful" and Terrence Malick for "The Thin Red Line." "Life Is Beautiful" also was nominated as best foreign language film, the first time a movie has earned nominations in both categories since 1969. It will compete against "Central Station" from Brazil, "Children of Heaven" from Iran, "The Grandfather" from Spain and "Tango" from Argentina.

In the best-actress category, Gwyneth Paltrow was nominated for her role in "Shakespeare in Love," Fernanda Montenegro for "Central Station," Cate Blanchett for "Elizabeth," Meryl Streep for "One True Thing" and Emily Watson for "Hilary and Jackie." Tom Hanks, who has already won two best-actor Oscars, was nominated for his role in "Ryan." He was joined by Ian McKellen for "Gods and Monsters," Benigni for "Life Is Beautiful," Nick Nolte for "Affliction" and Edward Norton for "American History X."

Kathy Bates was nominated for best supporting actress for her role in "Primary Colors," Brenda Blethyn for "Little Voice," Judi Dench for "Shakespeare in Love," Rachel Griffiths for "Hilary and Jackie" and Lynn Redgrave for "Gods and Monsters." Nominated for best supporting actor were James Coburn for "Affliction," Robert Duvall for "A Civil Action," Ed Harris for "The Truman Show," Geoffrey Rush for "Shakespeare in Love" and Billy Bob Thornton for "A Simple Plan."

The Oscars will be awarded March 21.

PHOTO OP — Kevin Costner and Robin Wright Penn at the Los Angeles premiere of their movie "Message in a Bottle." Paul Newman also stars.



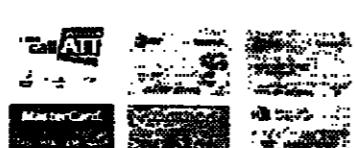
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